

THE
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ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

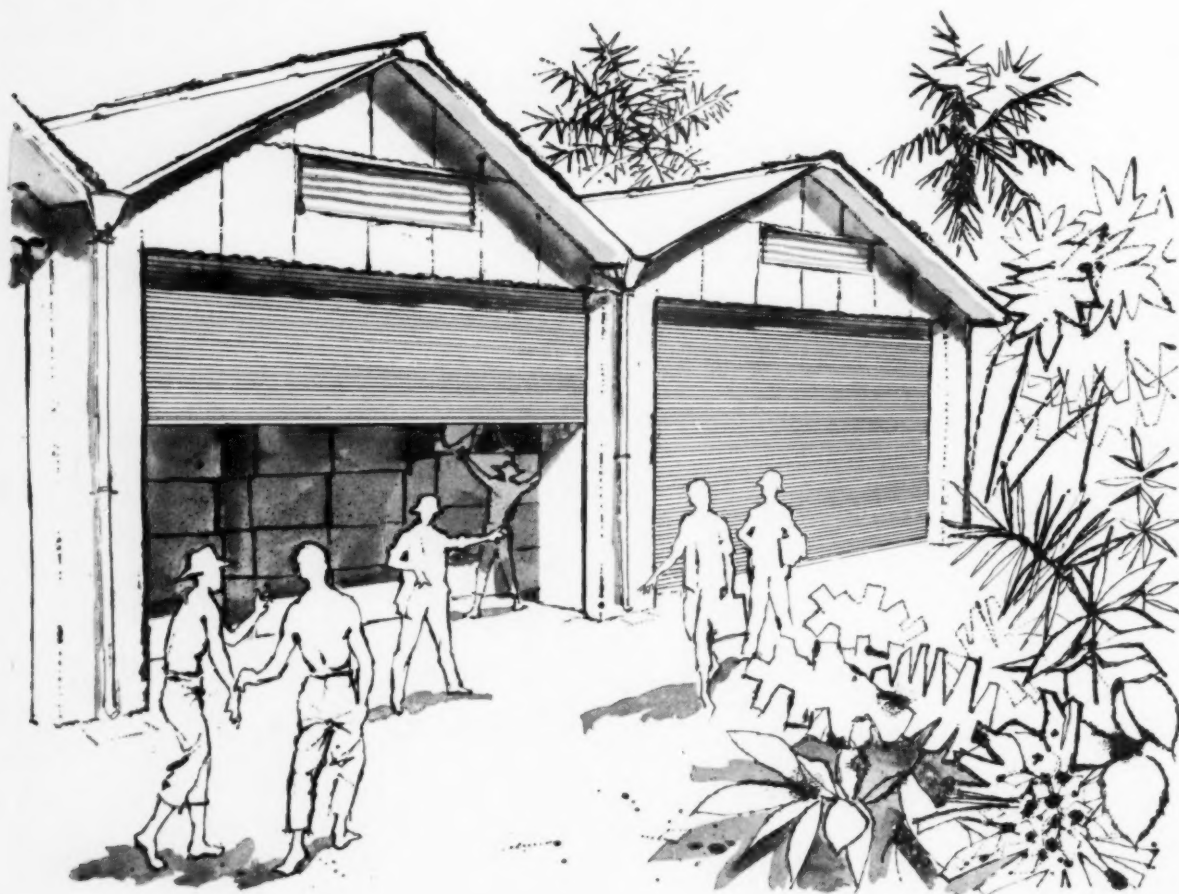
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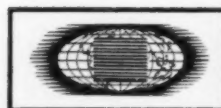
The year is closing. Now the fruits of a season's labour await shipment, protected meanwhile, behind steel shuttered doors against weather, scavenger and thief. Time and time again Brady Steel Rolling Shutter Doors provide the solution to problems of closing openings of unusual size and location. The use of only the highest grade materials and the considerable specialised experience that controls their construction guarantee them a trouble-free performance that makes them preferred both sides of the equator in both hemispheres. All the usual methods of operation are available, and doors can be designed to meet special requirements. Send for illustrated leaflet C/2/SS 353



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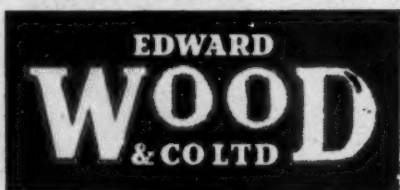




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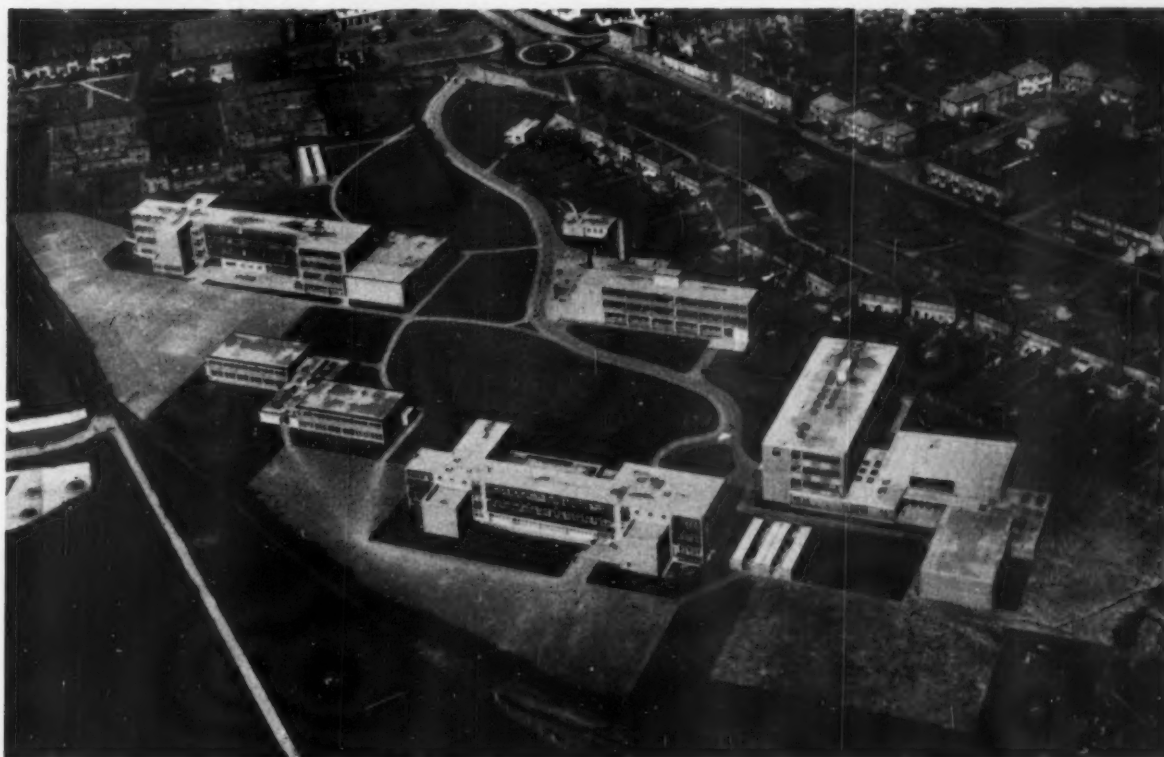
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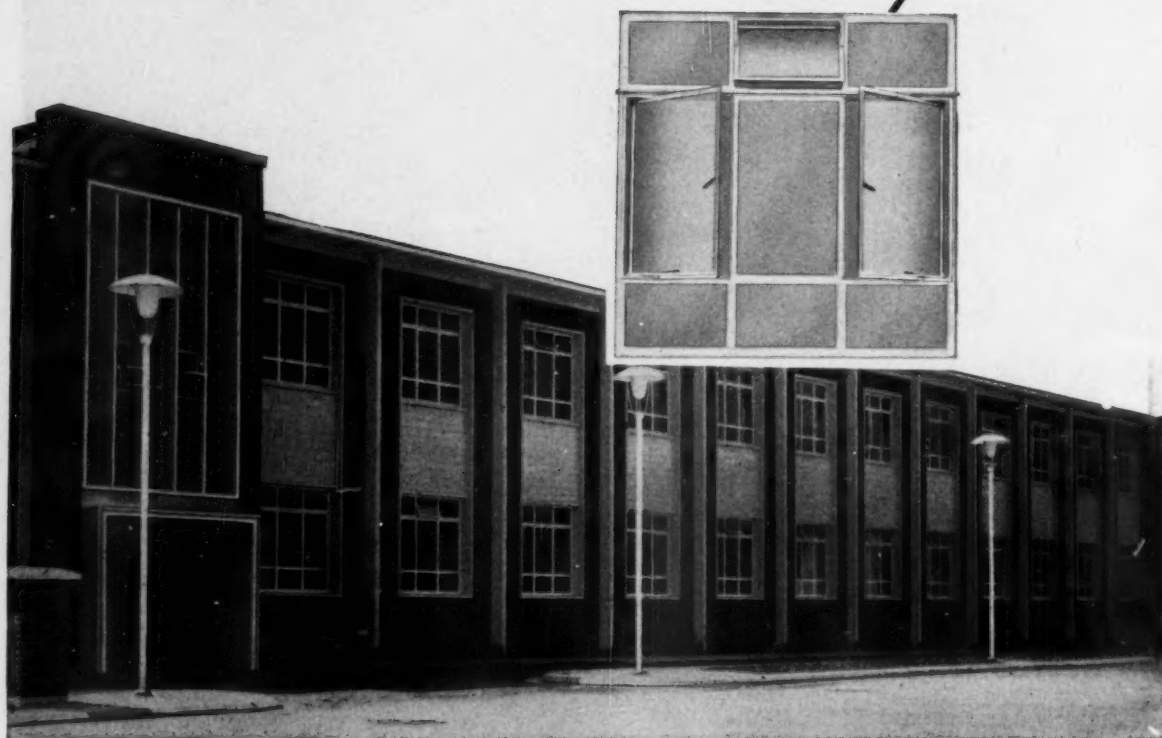
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Once again, skirting heating by Crane



The Halifax Branch Offices of the Huddersfield Building Society present an attractive elevation in which the traditional style of 1766 has been faithfully preserved. The interior is bright, pleasant and, although the source of heating is not immediately apparent, always comfortably warm. For the heating system employed, is in fact, far from traditional, being Crane Skirting Heating, one of the most modern and unobtrusive methods of space heating. The panels used here are the 9" Type RC (Radiant-Convactor), but there is also Type R (Radiant). Type R, as well as being made in the 6-inch size, has lately been made available in the 9-inch size for situations requiring additional heating surface. All are made of cast iron for resistance to damage, and are in 2-foot lengths and 1-foot half sections. Skirting Heating is the perfect modern way of heating any building.

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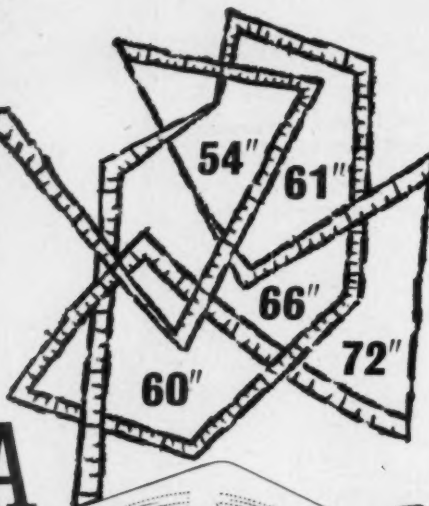
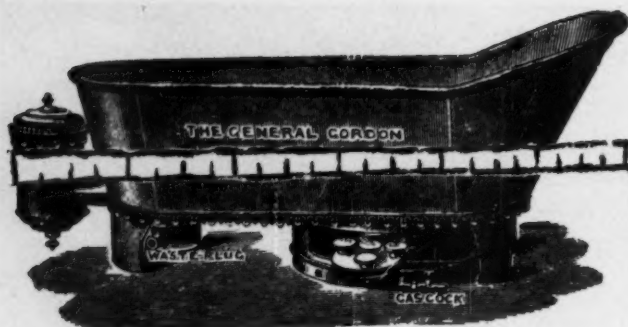
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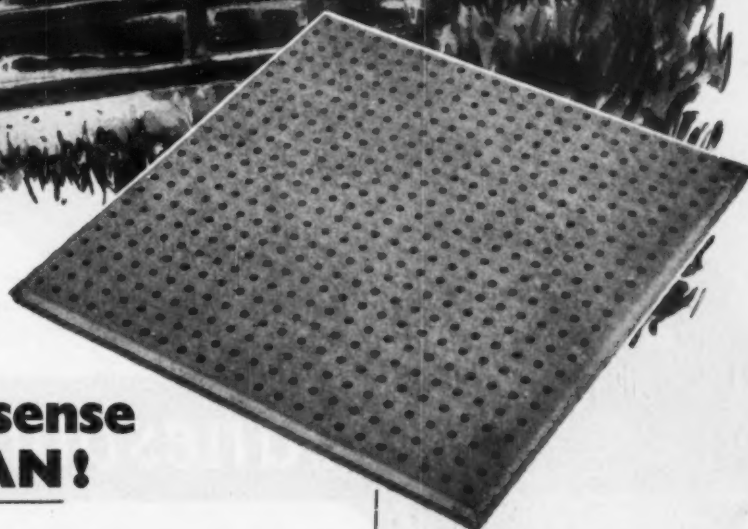
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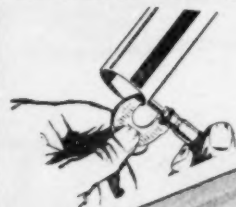
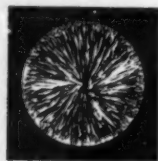
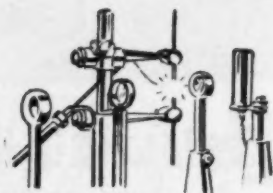
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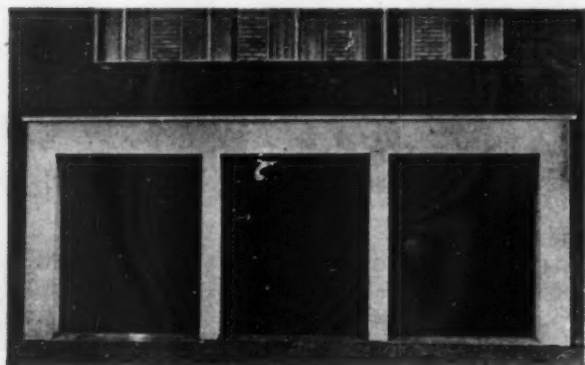
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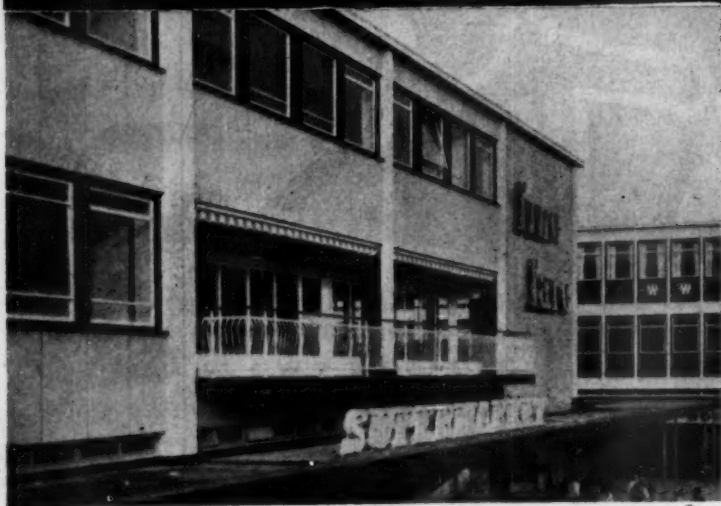
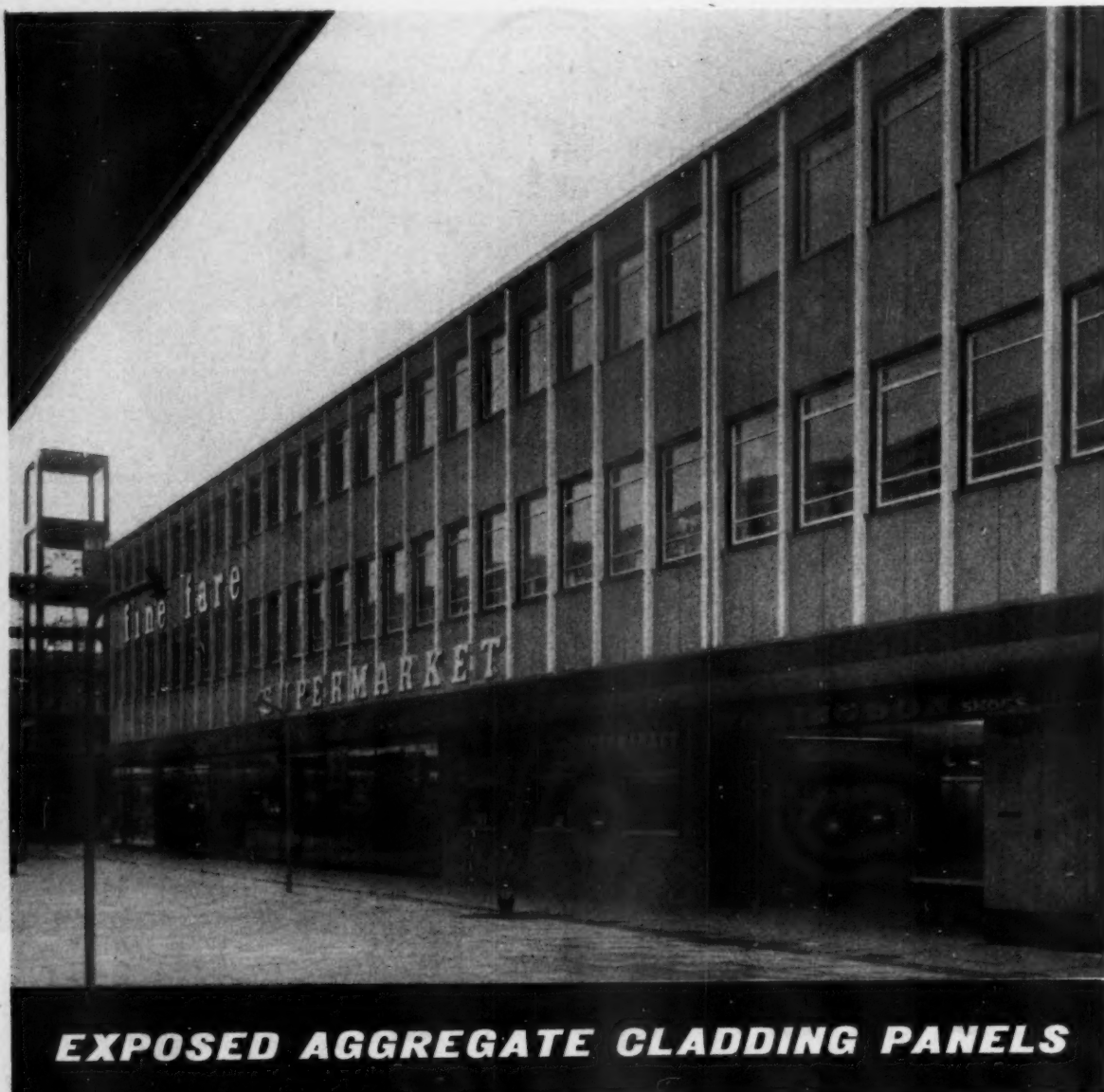
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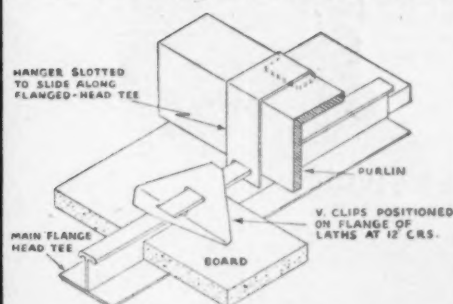


A Standard Maclean Metal Window installation.

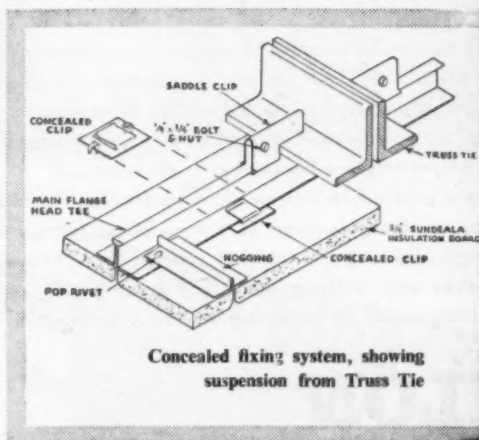
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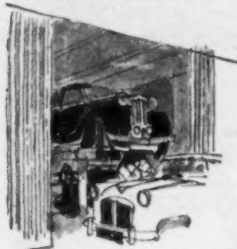
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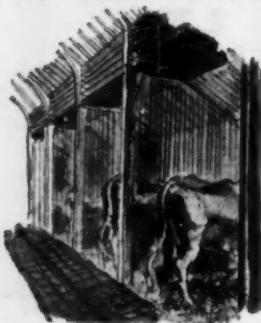
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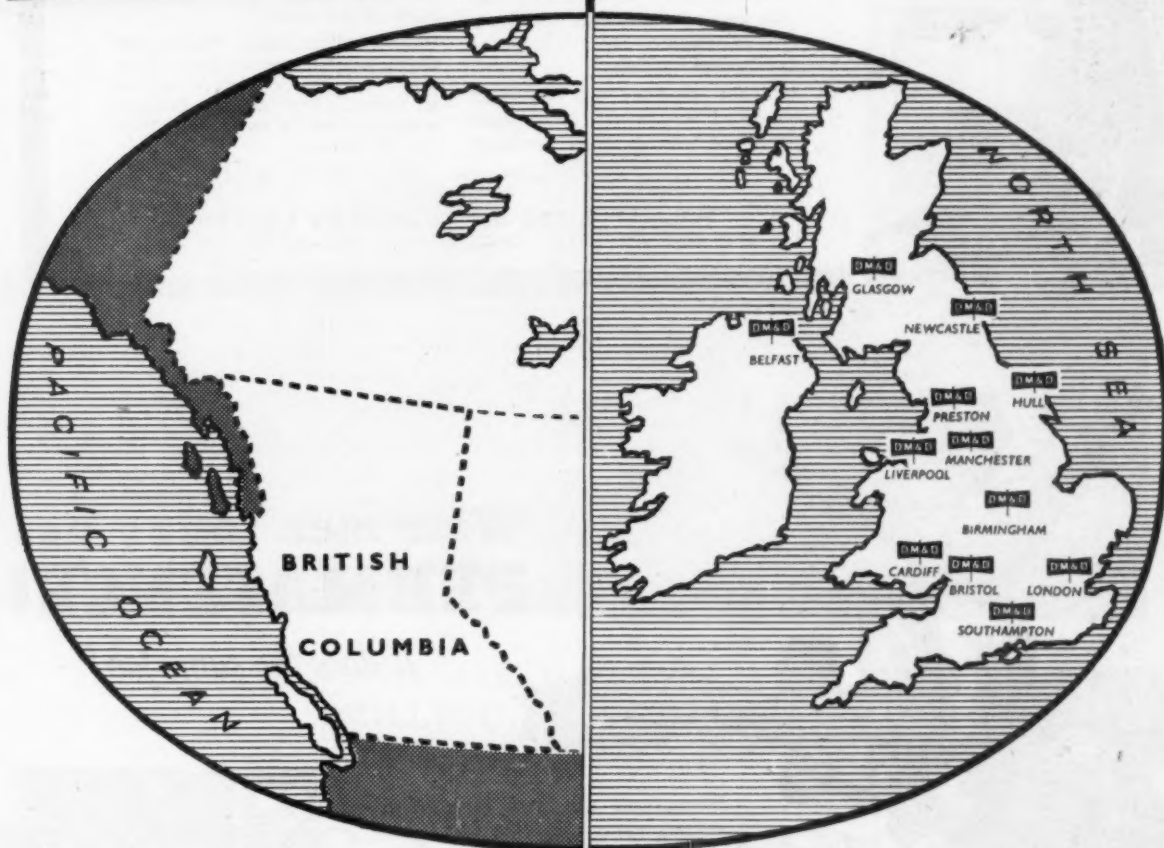
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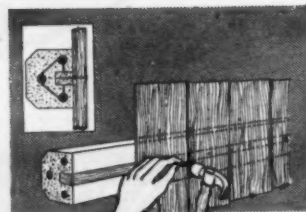
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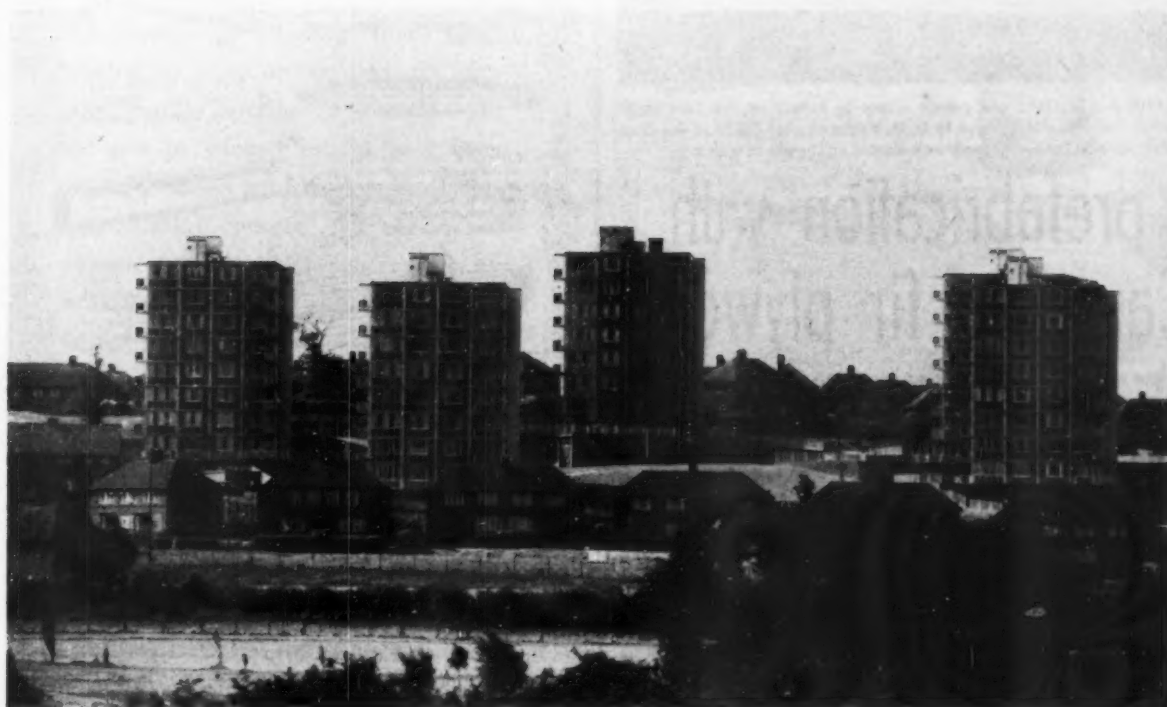
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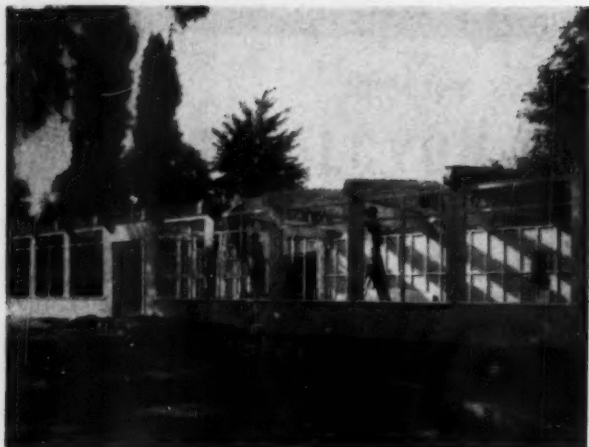


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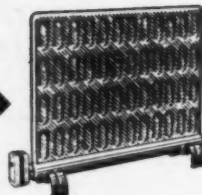
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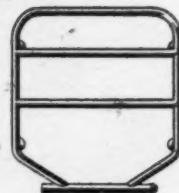
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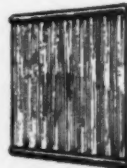
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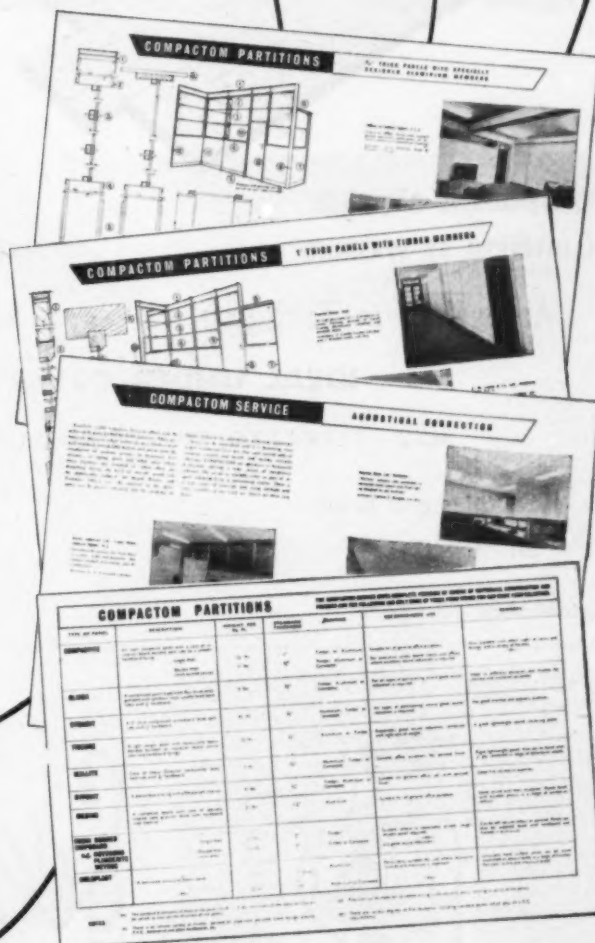
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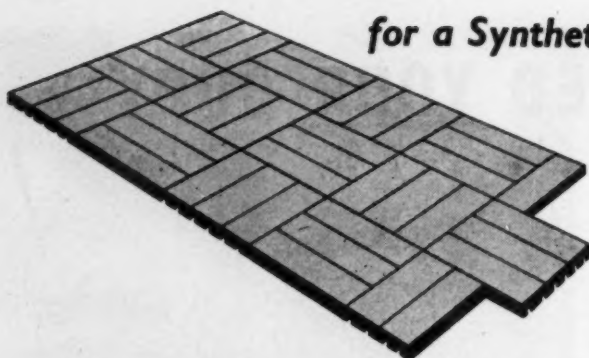
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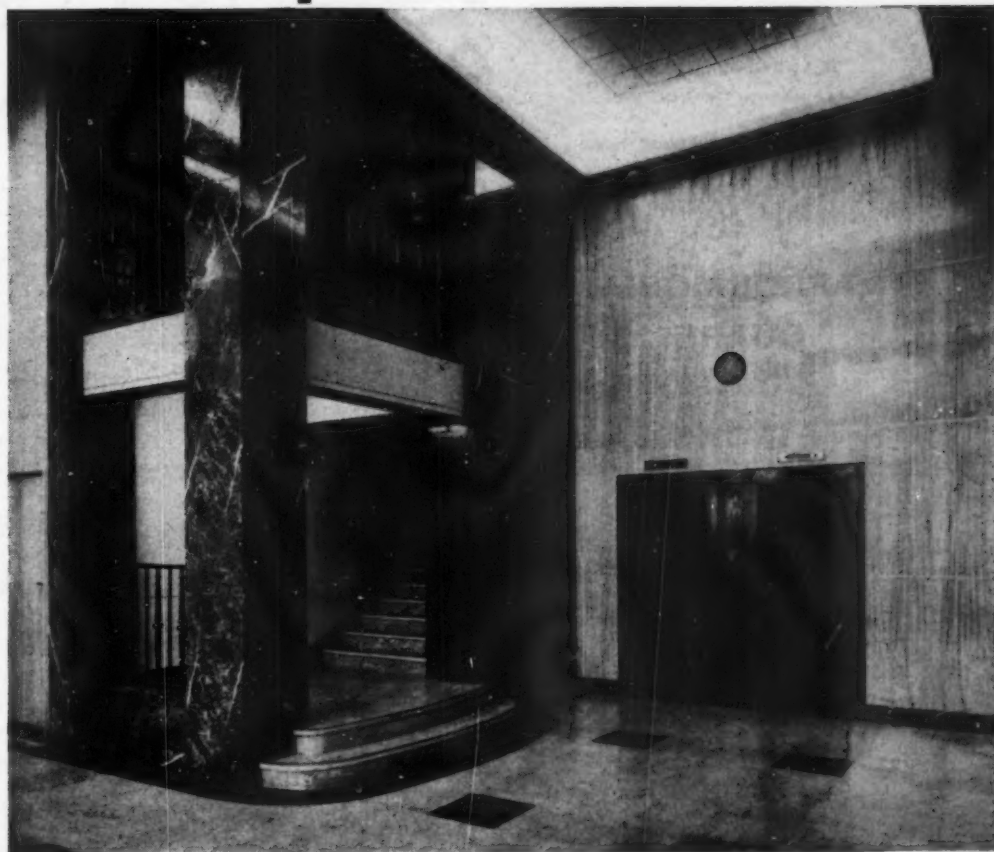
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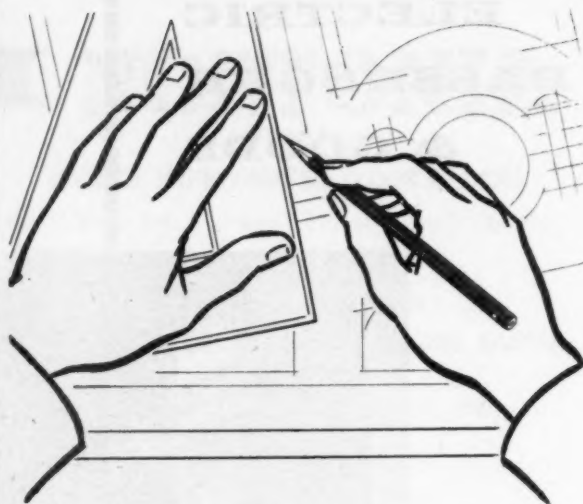
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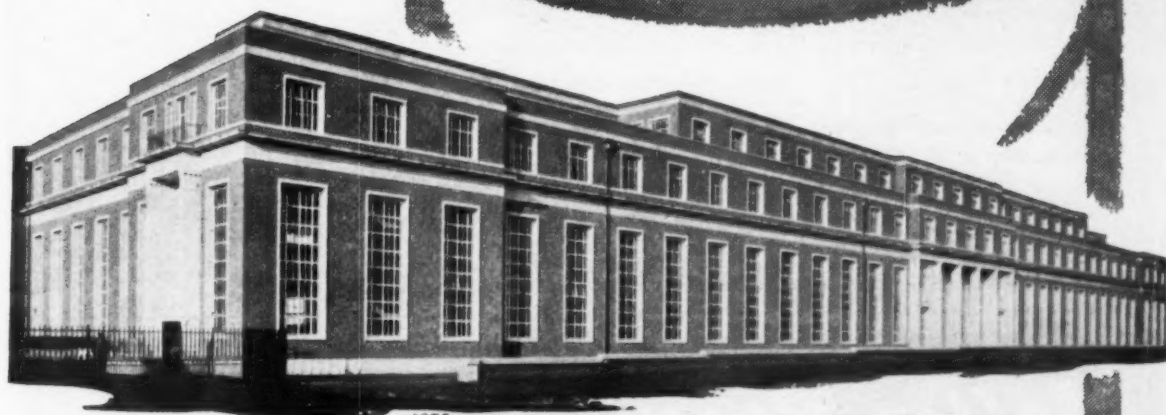
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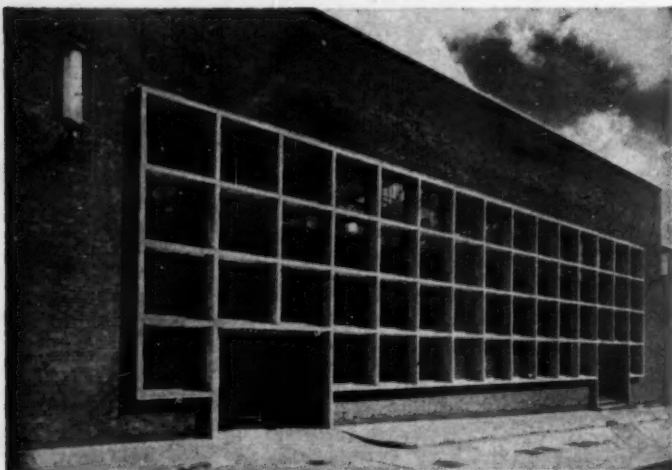
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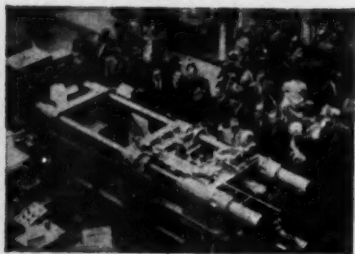
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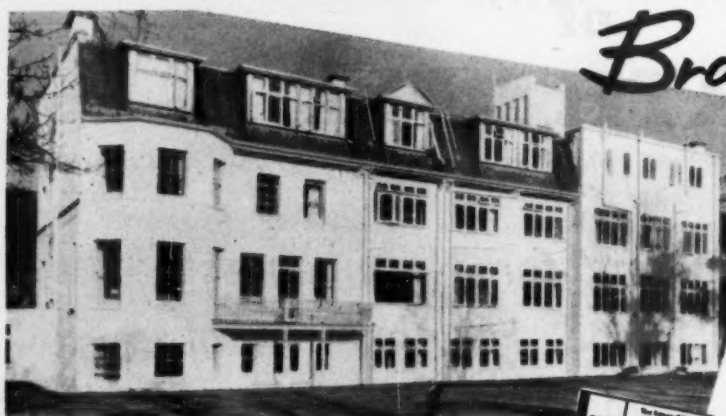
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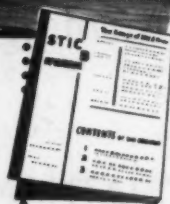
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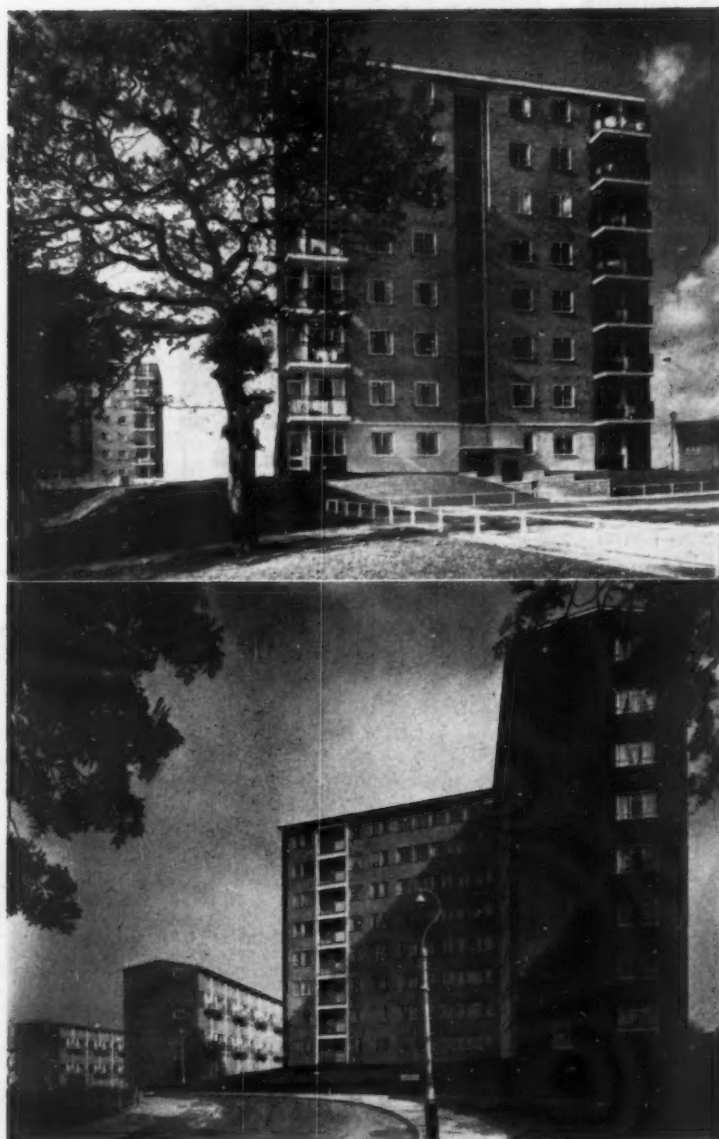
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Birmingham sees tall buildings go up the Wates way—ahead of schedule



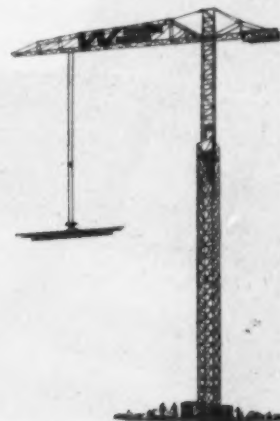
The City of Birmingham multi-storey project at Hawkesley Farm Moat estate comprising three eight-storey blocks of flats, as well as the two eight-storey and four six-storey blocks at Wychall Farm estate, were Wates-built. Both contracts were completed well ahead of schedule. These are just two examples of what can be achieved when there is enthusiastic co-operation between developer, architect, engineer and contractor at every stage. This is the way Wates build multi-storey projects, office blocks, factories, flats, in fact, every class of building, always with the same high order of success.

Upper illustration: Hawkesley Farm Moat estate

Lower illustration: Wychall Farm estate

Architect: A. G. Sheppard Fidler, M.A., B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., Birmingham City Architect.

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SHOULD FARMS BE EYESORES?

PLANNING has seldom been as unpopular as it is today and seldom as badly needed. The same person will angrily denounce some infringement of his own right to build regardless of others and, almost in the same breath, complain of some barbarity committed by his neighbour. The planner gets blamed both for acting and for not acting.

Last week *The Times* raised the problem of planning control in the countryside. As is generally known, farmers do not at present have to seek planning permission for their subsidiary buildings. In the vast majority of cases no harm is caused. The buildings are simple, utilitarian structures which fit in reasonably well with the existing buildings and the countryside around.

Recent developments have, however, caused some alarm even among people who are not normally over-conscious of their surroundings. Farming, like any other activity, is seldom static in its methods. Mechanization and the introduction of semi-industrial processes are having an increasing effect on the countryside. The large "broiler houses" where thousands of chickens are rapidly grown for the table are regarded by some planning authorities more as factory buildings than as farms. Their size and the use of materials such as corrugated iron and asbestos can strike a very discordant note if the buildings are not tactfully fitted

into their surroundings. In addition they and others, such as piggeries, can cause a nuisance if they are placed too close to other buildings.

Yet another trouble is the smallholding, often of only a few acres, when the owner has only limited capital and staggers along with makeshift buildings. Without particularly thinking about it he can in a few months turn a pleasant bit of countryside into a rural slum.

There is no simple answer to all this. Few planners would advocate a general extension of planning control to all farm buildings, nor would such a sweeping measure be necessary to deal with what in most areas is only an occasional problem. Some counties, such as Buckinghamshire, may find it necessary to seek a limited control. Others may rely on persuasion.

The final answer lies in education. Until we can once more re-create that sensitivity to environment which we lost in the Industrial Revolution we shall not be able to achieve the kind of inevitable seamliness of countries such as Switzerland and Denmark. The task of the architect and planner is by example and exhortation to make people more conscious of their surroundings and determined to reverse the all too common trend towards ugliness and squalor.



1

We regret to record the death last week of Frank Lloyd Wright after an operation.

A Personal Impression

R. FURNEAUX JORDAN

TO be with Frank Lloyd Wright and Mrs. Wright for ten days, as I was in 1950—and moreover not in Taliesin but in the English scene—was an enlightening experience.

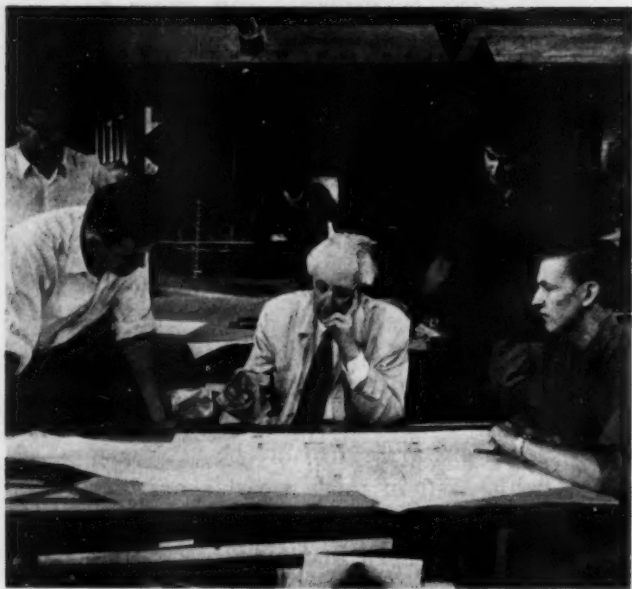
To start with—for all his prima donna ways—he left behind him affection, lasting memories and an impression of great gentleness and kindness, as well as a vast serenity. Very few great men when seen “en pantoufles” ever live up to the legend. F.L.W. did. The civilized romantic, the unerring designer and the ruthless individualist were there every moment from the time when he rearranged all the furniture in his Kensington “apartment” to the time when he did his last bit of shopping at Cameo Corner.

Of course the vanity was there, and was not the least part of the charm. There was the spontaneous lift of the head, the practised pose, when the camera was around. There was the wonderful business of helping him to buy top-hats in St. James’s Street, and the belief—we never disillusioned him—that the bells of Burford were ringing for Frank Lloyd Wright.

Only rarely did the vanity become arrogance—“I have a basis for my arrogance”—and was then less charming. There was the unmentionable Corb, the bitter dislike of American architects—after all they have treated him pretty shabbily—and his anger at any student gaffe or lapse of manners. There was the cancelling of his broadcast when he discovered it must be rehearsed—at Broadcasting House he never got out of the car, I had to tell the B.B.C.

At County Hall he was merely appalled at the “morass” of London and saw an atomic bomb as the only solution, but then—have you noticed—he was never really a town-planner. He couldn’t manage the ladders on the Festival Hall, but it didn’t matter; a glance at the drawings and he knew the building “to the last gnat’s heel”. He exhausted himself criticizing it and took a pretty poor view of Mathew and Martin’s acoustics—he and Sullivan had done better concert halls than that sixty years ago.

The English Cotswolds bowled him over. We were



2



4

1. Wright in the drawing room of his home at Taliesin West where he lived during the winter months with his family and 65 pupils. 2. Wright giving instruction to pupils. 3. With his wife, holding a press conference for a group of international journalists. 4. He rests against an old friend—one of the oak trees at Taliesin, Wisconsin

3





The master

stark, staring mad to desert this marvellous vernacular for the sake of the neo-Corb boys. He would spit blood at the least Renaissance twirl on an Elizabethan door, sharing Victor Hugo's view that "the Renaissance was hailed as a great dawn whereas in fact it was a great sunset". And so he was greatly moved by Charles Wade's wonderful manor at Snowhill, although it was there in the end that the modern architect emerged again—"there's medievalism dead on your chest".

He hated the hundred per cent American, but was really one himself—or the nineteenth century version—talking brashly about his income, and yours, and tickled to death to meet a lord.

I am glad to think that his last illness was short. He professed to share his wife's belief in the teachings of Ouspensky and Gurdjieff—she had been at the Gurdjieff Institute with Katherine Mansfield—and that belief certainly gave the Wrights great serenity in the affairs of daily life. To sleep under warm Arizona stars and awake in the desert dawn should have reconciled this great romantic to all the mysteries of the universe, but it didn't. He feared death, perhaps because he had lived so fully.



A recent picture
Below, a lunchtime
class at Taliesin West

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT





**FRANK
LLOYD
WRIGHT**

Built of wood and stone in 1938, Taliesin West, Wright's winter headquarters in the Arizona desert provided both living and working quarters. These views show the patio (above) and entrance (below)



THE ARCHITECT and Building News,
15 April 1959

FROM time to time one hears speculation on the numbers and names of architects known to the man in the street. Frank Lloyd Wright was probably among them when he was alive, he certainly must be now. Fourteen of the leading British daily and evening papers devoted a total of about 170 column inches to his obituary, all published a portrait and some had as many as six illustrations of his work, occupying up to half a page. Whether this was caused by his caustic comments on other architects, his prophet-like appearance, his great age, his reputed morals or his architecture, it is difficult to say. Probably each facet of his character had news value.

The *Western Mail* summed him up as an architectural genius, whose work was abominated by a great many architects. "Writers", it said "hated his style and ministers of religion deplored his morals". The *Daily Mail* called him "the architect who started 700 rows", in a headline and explained that nearly all of his 700 buildings aroused heated arguments. In the *Daily Telegraph*, John Betjeman described his influence as "tremendous" and likened his styles to those of Sir John Soane and Norman Shaw, with a strong influence of art nouveau and Japanese. "His books in the R.I.B.A. library", said Betjeman, with pardonable poetic licence, are almost worn away by the fingers of students".

The *Scotsman* called Wright America's greatest architect, and paid tribute to his love and understanding of the basic building materials. The *Glasgow Herald* spoke of the sense of security which he gave to those who lived in his buildings, pointed out that he was born in the same year as Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and likened him to Michelangelo because of his undiminished pioneering spirit at a great age. Writing in the *Manchester Guardian*, Clough Williams-Ellis described Wright as the most influential and dominating architectural figure of our century and thought that his influence was greater than that of any other architect, except possibly, Palladio.

The *Evening News* thought up the headline "Architects' 'Enfant Terrible,' They Laughed but he Proved Them Wrong". The *Times*, in an excellent account of his life and work, summed him up as follows: "Wright was a powerful and picturesque personality, an assiduous propagandist with the style and appearance of a prophet. In spite of the fact that no younger architects of note have carried on his style of design, the influence of his ideas has been very great, and, indeed, some recent developments in modern architecture have reached the same point that he seems to have reached by instinct years ago."



Two views of Taliesin West with part of the garden in the lower picture. They illustrate Wright's originality and his striving to create harmony between building and landscape



EVENTS AND COMMENTS

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

It is difficult to realize that Frank Lloyd Wright is dead. He seemed to have reached in life an immortal state where the steady addition of years made no difference, except to increase his stature. Robert Furneaux Jordan writes about this great man on another page. I can only add personal reminiscence of his visit to the A.A. in 1950 to distribute the prizes—he greatly disapproved of prizes and said so—and of a telephone call from him from Paris. On the latter occasion, some three years ago, he said that architecture was moving up a one-way street to a dead end, and harangued me for some ten minutes on the subject. Perhaps his autobiography will deter authors from writing his life. I hope, nevertheless, that someone will collect some of the rich, rude and pithy things he said about other architects and their work.

AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT

The L.C.C. architect's department has, since the war, reached a position of world fame. Its work in many fields has been quite remarkable and in spite of its size, and the great volume of work which it does, the quality of design continues to improve. This is very much helped by the great variety which is introduced into buildings having the same basic purpose and by the imagination and enthusiasm of those who direct the L.C.C.'s architectural policy.

A small exhibition now open in the new north block of County Hall illustrates very well these qualities of imagination and enthusiasm. The exhibition shows the work of two young artists, both trained at the R.C.A., who, in the capacity of consultant designers to the L.C.C., have for the past year been working on experimental techniques for the decorative treatment of blocks of flats and other buildings on housing sites. They are Anthony Hollaway and William Mitchell. The first impression I had of the exhibition was that these two had done a prodigious amount of work in the time. The variety is remarkable. The exhibition is designed to show the techniques, but one is constantly delighted by the decoration itself and by the many different forms it takes.

The underlying idea is that the decoration must not cost more than the normal finish would have cost, for this type of work must be included in the building cost.

A list of some of the techniques used will, I hope, make you realize that you should go and see for yourself, before the exhibition closes on April 25. Vinyl plastics used as a moulding material, prepared wooden forms applied to the shutter boards by the consultants and placed in position by the contractor, to provide relief decoration. Coloured glass mosaics, made up on paper and supplied to the contractor in tile sizes for fixing with glazed tiles. Stencilled effects made by spraying coloured cement on to a white wall to which plasterers' laths had been temporarily fixed. Coloured polyester resin, inlaid in chipboard; in this technique a drawn line on chipboard was incised with an electric router and the grooves were filled with pigmented polyester resin giving clear transparent colours. Plaster sprayed photostat murals. Ceramic glaze applied to concrete on the site by oxy-acetylene gas. The decoration of mild steel sheet by drawing on it with a cutting

EVENTS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED

torch. Relief murals in concrete with coloured plastics glaze, this was a splendidly barbaric design and looked fit to eat. Inlaid polyester resin in hardened plaster and many more. This is a tremendous list and were it not backed with great decorative skill it might be more of a threat than a promise.

Happily we need have no fears about that with the present consultants or their clients. There is, however, always a danger in this type of experimentation that the technique will get the upper hand, as it tends to do too often in new decorative building materials. I fear that this exhibition will put ideas into the heads of many less discriminating people.

The exhibition has been criticized for showing the decoration divorced from the buildings for which it was designed. This is fair comment except that it is shown as a pattern book of techniques to stimulate designers and to show them the things that are available. Having seen the exhibition I am not at all surprised to hear that Hollaway and Mitchell have been retained for a further year. All those who have had anything to do with this project, and I believe Mr. Oliver Cox was one of the leading lights, are very much to be congratulated.

SOLENT WATER PARK

The Solent Water Park idea originated by Sir Hugh Casson in an article a couple of years ago, and since taken up by Geoffrey Robson in the *Architectural Review*, does not yet seem to have caught the popular imagination. If it does not do so soon it will be too late. The proposed Caltex refinery at the mouth of the Hamble seems to be going ahead in spite of the protests of preservers, led by the Society for the Preservation of the Solent Area. Now we have the threat of a nuclear power station at Hamstead, bordering on Newtown Creek, a charming deserted spot on the Isle of Wight. One of the main difficulties in stirring up public interest in the Solent area is that the public cannot get to some of the most beautiful parts of it. They are beautiful for just that reason—either because

they are privately owned or because they have no roads. The Earl of Montagu's Beaulieu estate includes a long stretch of the north-west shore of the Solent and the Beaulieu River itself. It is difficult to whip up public support for the preservation of beaches which it is unable to visit, but the public can and does visit Buckler's Hard, the charming group of houses which marks the site of a great shipyard of the age of "wooden walls" on the Beaulieu River. Beaulieu itself, with its abbey, annual jazz festival, and now much-enlarged motor museum, is a rallying place for large crowds. A case could be made—but not by me—for giving the public more scope in this area, if only to obtain more recruits to support the Water Park idea. At the moment only those who sail on the West Solent are really able to appreciate its beauty and the need for its preservation, but yachtsmen alone cannot hope to sway those who would spread a rash of industrial development along its lovely shores.

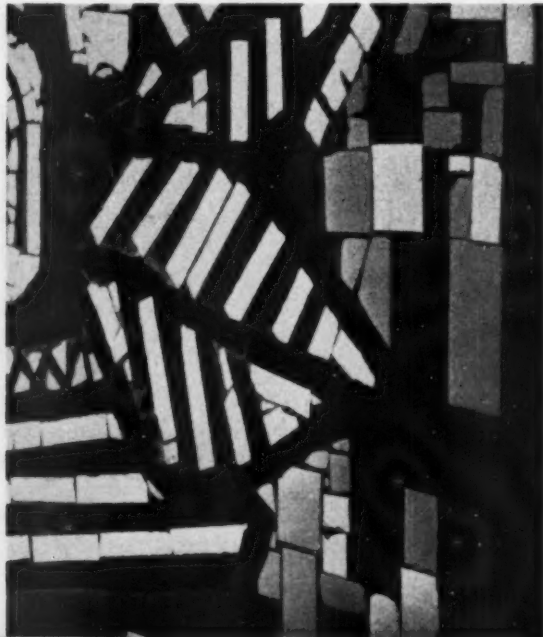
The I.O.W. Branch of the C.P.R.E. last week pledged itself to oppose the nuclear power station at Hamstead against the advice of its executive committee, which wished to wait and see. Sir Hugh Casson, who spoke after the meeting at which this decision was taken, must have heartened its supporters, for he advocated behaving like a child in the nursery and kicking up a continual rumpus until its demands are satisfied regardless of reasoning. I am sure he is right. It is never too soon to oppose a threat of this kind and it is impossible to make too great a noise about it.

REPAIR OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

The S.P.A.B. is, once again, holding a course on the repair of ancient buildings for architects and surveyors who have old buildings in their care. The course will consist of lectures, discussions and visits and will be held from Monday, May 25, to Saturday, May 30. Similar courses have been held for the past eight years. The society hopes that local authorities and other organizations responsible for ancient buildings will enable architect and surveyor members of their staffs to attend. Further details may be obtained from the secretary, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 55 Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.

ABNER

Murals in tile chippings for the entrance halls of two blocks of flats at Squirries Street, Bethnal Green. The design on the left is based on the legend of the Beggar's Daughter of Bethnal Green. From the exhibition of work by Anthony Hollaway and William Mitchell (see "an exciting development" p. 467).



NEWS

R.I.B.A. Constitutional Recommendations: Four Approved

In the light of comments made at the special general meeting of the R.I.B.A., written comments received from the allied societies, as well as contributions received separately from chapters and branches and individual members, the council have approved the following measures in principle:

Method of election: That members of council should be elected by postal ballot, in part nationally by the general body of members at home and overseas, and in part regionally through the allied societies in the United Kingdom.

Composition of Council: (1) That the council should consist of 63 elected members, comprising 30 nationally elected, 27 regionally elected from England and Wales, four from Scotland, one from Northern Ireland and one from the Republic of Ireland.

(2) That each elected representative should serve for three years (with a maximum of six as at present).

(3) That, in the case of nationally elected members, one-third should retire each year, giving rise to an annual election of ten members.

(4) That, so far as regional voting is concerned, England and Wales should be divided for voting purposes into three main regions, or groups of allied societies (see below), each region having nine representatives; that each of these three groups should elect its nine representatives every third year, giving rise to one regional election annually from each region in turn; and that in every case allied society members should vote only for candidates in their own "constituency" (each "constituency" to consist of an allied society area, or, in the case of certain larger societies, one or more chapters within the society's area).

(5) That the national and regional elections should be held at the same time each year, and organized from Portland Place.

(6) That national nominations should be made by the R.I.B.A. Council, or by any seven individual members as at present. Regional nominations should be made by the allied societies' councils, or by any seven individual members in the appropriate area. Voting, and the right of nomination, to be restricted to corporate members of the R.I.B.A.

(7) That the method of appointment of representatives from Scotland and Ireland should be determined after further discussion with representatives of the organizations concerned.

That copies of the report be sent to the R.I.A.S., the R.S.U.A. and the R.I.A.I., with a request to consider the principles enunciated in regard to methods of election; and that they be informed of the council's hope that they can consider some method of electing their representatives by postal ballot.

Allied Society Membership: That membership of the appropriate allied society should be automatic on membership of the R.I.B.A. Students, R.I.B.A., should also be automatically members, in the appropriate classes, of the allied societies. Probationers, R.I.B.A., may be enrolled with allied societies on payment of a local subscription, if required. (The position in Scotland and Ireland to be decided later after further reference to the organizations concerned.)

Finance: That finance allocated from headquarters to the allied societies should be in the form of annual block grants (subject to triennial review), in lieu of the present *per capita* rebates.

(2) That those allied societies who wish, continue to raise funds locally, but such additional financial contributions to be on a voluntary basis so far as R.I.B.A. members are concerned.

(3) That the allied societies, if they wish, should con-

tinue to elect to local membership non-members of the R.I.B.A. on payment of local subscriptions. Such local members not to have voting rights in R.I.B.A. elections.

(4) That the case for the formation of a new allied society to cover the London and Middlesex area does not appear to have widespread support, and that no further action on this account be taken.

Suggested Grouping of Allied Societies

The scheme is based very roughly on an average ratio of one representative to 400 members, although in small societies and in very scattered areas the ratio is lower. Where an allied society has more than one representative, it is intended that these shall be elected separately from the main chapter areas within the society, e.g., Birmingham and Coventry. The actual sub-division of the areas of the larger societies for this purpose is a matter, however, for local discussion within each society. The breakdown, in the order of society, approximate number of corporate members in the area, and number of representatives on the R.I.B.A. Council, is set out below.

Region I. South-East: East Anglian, 203, 1; Essex, Cambs and Herts, 1,048, 3; South-Eastern, 2,146, 5; totals 3,397 members, nine representatives.

Region II. West and Midlands: Berks, Bucks and Oxon, 533, 1; Birmingham and Five Counties, 953, 2; Devon and Cornwall, 328, 1; Hants and Isle of Wight, 418, 1; Wessex, 656, 2; South Wales, 418, 1; Leicester and Rutland (175), and Northants, Beds and Hunts (196), with a total of 371 members between them, share one representative; totals, 3,677 members, nine representatives.

Region III North: Liverpool, 636, 2; Manchester, 839, 2; Northern, 522, 1; Notts. Derby and Lincs, 469, 1; West Yorkshire, 492, 1; Sheffield and S. Yorkshire, 255, 1; York and E. Yorkshire, 242, 1; totals, 3,455 members, nine representatives.

R.F.A.C. on Motorways

In a statement issued by the Royal Fine Art Commission emphasis is laid on the importance of including architect-planners in the study groups on motorways and local road improvements. The commission has said:

"The Minister has recently taken the initiative in setting up study groups in the more densely populated areas, to plan local road improvements, including motorways, and to suggest priorities for carrying out the work. In the commission's view it is important that these groups should include suitably qualified architect-planners, and it has supported the Royal Institute of British Architects in its recent approach to the Minister. Similar views on the need for architectural collaboration from the outset have been expressed by the Town Planning Institute, by the Central Council of Civic Societies and by the Civic Trust. The choice of interests to be represented was to be left entirely to the local authority, and the commission feared that this might not lead to the highest quality of civic design being either envisaged or achieved. The commission understands, however, that the Minister of Transport and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government are reminding local authorities concerned of the importance of including architectural representation.

"The commission is convinced that these are matters on which a clear lead should be given. The outlook and achievements of this country in this generation will be judged in no small measure by its major engineering works. It would be a grave indictment of the way the present opportunity is being handled if our new motorways fell short in any respect of the highest standards of which we are capable."

Exhibition of Chinese Architecture

An exhibition of Chinese classical architecture, together with a selection of Chinese contemporary work, which the R.I.B.A. hoped to present in April, has been postponed and may now be shown early in June.



The insistent thrust of the new inner ring road at the heart of the city is easily spotted in this aerial view of Birmingham's centre. From below the impact of the road is masked by a jungle of builder's equipment

BIRMINGHAM today is one of the most interesting cities in Britain and may soon be one of the most interesting in Europe. It is undergoing what is probably the biggest and boldest scheme of comprehensive redevelopment ever undertaken in this country. Radical urban renewal is taking place from the centre to the periphery. Directing this great operation are the architects, engineers and town planners of the Birmingham Corporation under the leadership of a city council conscious of its opportunities and confident in the city's future. A new commercial centre worthy of the second city in the land is being created. A pattern of wide new streets is being imposed on the existing archaic road system while approach roads leading to Birmingham are being rapidly freed to allow for the swift movement of modern motor traffic. Along the new frontages of the inner ring road, already under construction, developers are erecting buildings which will give to the principal shopping areas something of the atmosphere of Regent Street while retaining the essential character of this thriving west midland city. Tall new blocks of flats in landscaped sites are arising from the old areas of decay and blight while industry is steadily being rehoused in modern and efficient buildings which make the best use of the available land. All this is a far cry from the market town of the sixteenth century and the haphazard industrial

and commercial expansion of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

♦ ♦ ♦

Birmingham today is rising in the social scale. Its importance as a major commercial centre is, however, still founded on the versatility of its industries which include more than 1,500 trades. The city will be enriched by this new growth in more ways than one. Apart from the steadily rising rent roll of the Corporation-owned land in the city centre and the improved rateable values resulting from private commercial development, there is an increasing concern for the cultural factors of life. Clearances for the inner ring road are providing the opportunity of building a new theatre to replace the famous old Theatre Royal, recently demolished in New Street. Six war-damaged picture galleries at the City Museum have been rebuilt by the city architect in accordance with the most advanced design principles and there is, of course, a lively following for the well-known City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra which enjoys the support of the Corporation and of the Arts Council.

Birmingham University, with its five faculties of arts, science, medicine, commerce and law, is undertaking a

THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM REBUILDS

We live in a world of our own; a world which sometimes finds its boundary at the end of our noses. Thus with the architect, a choice of a door handle may exclude thoughts for the house; or thoughts for the house those for the neighbourhood. . . . Here we have tried to broaden the view, rising sufficiently high to see the city of Birmingham in the two-fold process of decay and growth; a new town evolving from the structure of the old. We begin the story with an introduction and some general information and moving outwards from the centre show, first, the kind of work being done in the centre, then in the five inner development areas, finally at the city's perimeter

City Architect:
A. G. SHEPPARD FIDLER
Deputy Architect:
J. R. SHERIDAN-SHEDDEN
City Engineer and Surveyor:
SIR HERBERT J. MANZONI

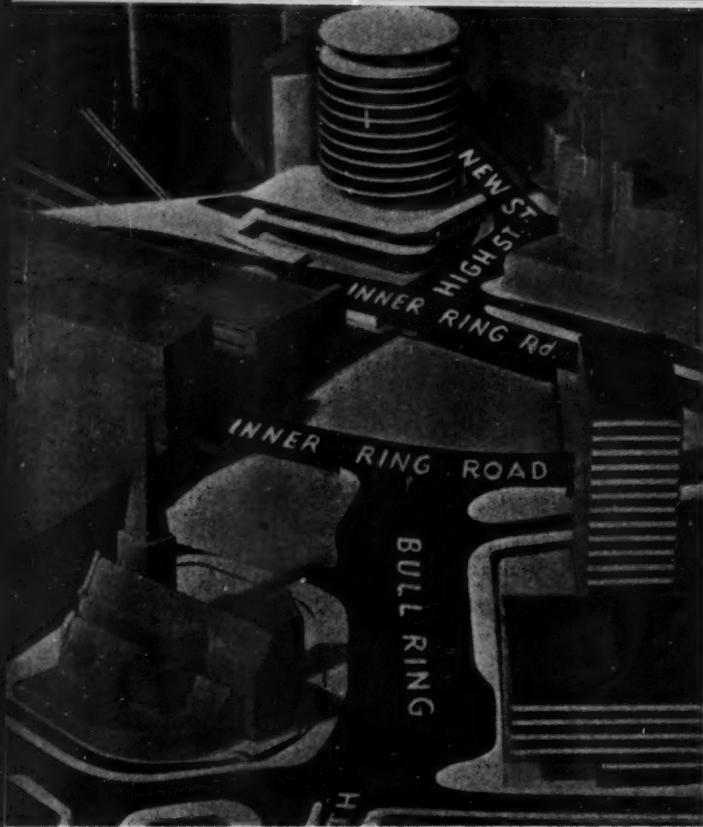


Photo: A&M FILMS

sweeping programme of expansion working to the new master plan prepared by Sir Hugh Casson and Neville Conder. In addition, the city itself has already built a new College of Advanced Technology at Gosta Green and is planning a central College of Art on an adjacent site. Birmingham is well endowed with grammar schools, the best known being the King Edward VI Group. In the field of state education the city has recently opened its 100th post-war county school.

Mention should also be made of one of the most important cultural organizations in the city, the Birmingham and Midlands Institute, now chiefly renowned for its school of music serving the whole region. This institute also runs the Birmingham library, one of the oldest and most famous subscription libraries in the country with about 150,000 volumes. Birmingham's vigorous cultural life is a challenge to its architects, for without it the city would provide merely the mechanics for existence rather than a stimulating and enjoyable environment. The plans for the city centre include for more places of entertainment and a great new civic exhibition hall for the display of the city's achievements and products.





BIRMINGHAM REBUILDS

Local government will function at the hub of all this progressive activity. In the new civic centre development scheme designed by the city architect, the Council House and old Town Hall will be linked with the area used for civic buildings between the wars; new buildings will be formally sited in a landscape setting to create what will virtually be a new public park within five minutes walk of the city centre. Here the new city hall group will include a civic theatre and concert hall. The scheme will incorporate the existing civic centre block.

Although it may one day be famed for the quality of its civic design, Birmingham today is best known for its industrial reputation, the result of many years of skill and hard work. Its industrial strength is based less on its great factories employing thousands than on the host of small workshops engaged on a multitude of tasks.

The intensity of this industrial development is one of the biggest problems facing planners in the city centre. In clearance areas industry, houses, shops and all other types of buildings are completely and chaotically inter-mixed. All industries must be re-accommodated somewhere or closed down. The erection by the Corporation of multi-storey flatted factories produces a partial answer to the problem reducing the movement of industry to new sites outside the city to a minimum.

The hundreds of small workshops making precision components and parts for the larger concerns use the city's streets as conveyor belts. All day long vans rush

round the city transporting goods and materials from one shop to another. To this must be added the growing pressure from private and public transport and the daily influx of heavy vehicles bringing food and raw materials into the city so that provision for moving and parked vehicles is one of the major factors in replanning. The new roads will provide for a greater volume of traffic so distributed as to keep as many standing vehicles as possible off the streets.

The inner ring road is thus a key factor in the city centre redevelopment. In opening up traffic circulation, it will at the same time provide important new frontages for major commercial development. A start on this project was delayed by the post-war economic policies of successive governments, but with the recent freeing of road expenditure, work was inaugurated by the Minister of Transport in 1957. Money was obtained from the Treasury only after the Corporation had put up a stiff fight for what they rightly considered to be a vitally important road. The project is estimated to cost £15 million, of which £12 million are for land. Fortunately the Corporation was allowed to acquire many of the necessary sites in advance of the road works along the frontages. A striking feature here has been the interest shown by the big commercial developers who are investing millions of pounds in new building.

The secret of Birmingham's success lies in the public control of the land affected and in the making of bold plans. When the Corporation considered post-war reconstruction they saw that the task could only be tackled comprehensively. Five large areas close to the city centre were scheduled as redevelopment areas. They are now being regarded as virtual new towns so great is the extent of rebuilding and renewal. This policy of the Birmingham Corporation was based on the Blitz and Blight Clauses of the Town Planning Act of 1944. These powers have



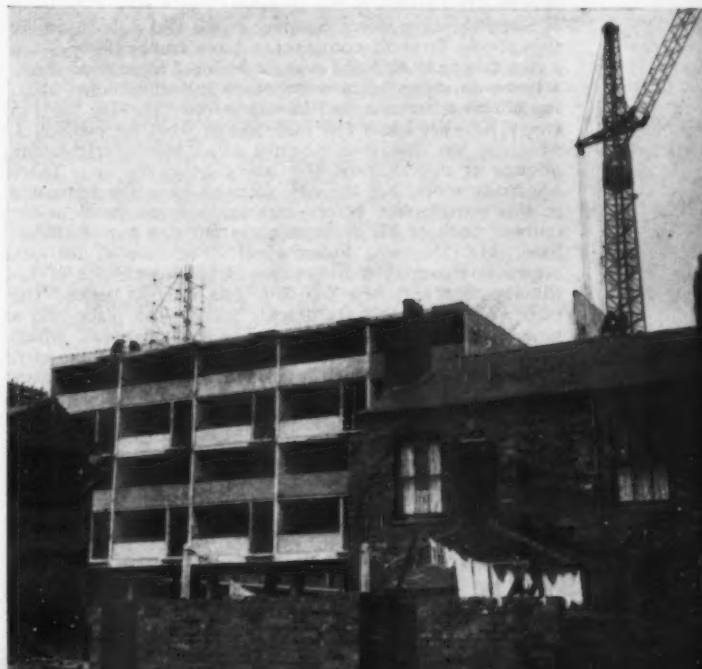


been drastically curtailed in later legislation but not before Birmingham had secured the vital areas which are the key to the whole operation. Everyone recognizes the debt owed to Sir Herbert J. Manzoni, the city engineer and surveyor, who guided the city's first steps in redevelopment and now presides over the evolution of a far-sighted and imaginative policy.

One of the most significant policy developments in Birmingham has been the creation of a city architect's department. In 1952 Mr. A. G. Sheppard Fidler was appointed as the first city architect. Fresh from his experience in building Crawley New Town, he faced up to the greater task of rebuilding Birmingham. Among many important modifications in architectural policy has been the decision to include more two-storey houses in redevelopment areas by increasing the height of tall blocks of flats used with them and to keep the bulk of the remaining accommodation in four-storey maisonnettes. This was based on research by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Mr. Sheppard Fidler is emphatic that it pays to redevelop large areas and in such large areas it pays to make the tall blocks really tall. The higher cost can then be averaged to include the larger number of low dwellings. In such areas, too, mixed development allows tall blocks to be so sited that they do not overshadow other blocks, permits some of their services to be extended to nearby houses and makes for better use of communal facilities such as lifts and caretaking.

The scope of Birmingham's housing redevelopment programme may best be realized by stating that the five redevelopment areas contain some 30,000 houses due for replacement and a further 12,800 in other clearance areas. That is equivalent to four-fifths of all new municipal housing built in the city between the wars. In working by compulsory purchase order and on this scale the Corporation had perforce to become a slum landlord and a major problem has been the improvement and reconditioning by the Housing Management Department of such houses as will not be demolished for a number of years. Already over 15,500 in the redevelopment areas have received this "soiling and heeling" treatment, while work on a similar principle is completed or in progress in other areas.

Facing page, top, a £2,000,000 development scheme will put a multi-storey car park and a 12-storey block in the Bull Ring, linked by pedestrian subways, with another 12-storey circular building in the New Street-Worcester Street island site. This will be the key to the whole market area development. St. Martin's Church in the foreground may be related to the existing townscape on pages 468-469 and is on the far right of the composite photograph. Facing page, left, new offices span the existing road system at its junction with the new ring road. Above, typical back-to-back housing which has been "soled and heeled" to give additional years of usefulness. The top photo shows the pend to give access to houses which face on to the inner court (photo under). These houses which have no indoor sanitary accommodation have additional "out-houses" constructed to bring up to bye-law requirements. Right, new flats in the Netchells Green development area are seen rising behind existing housing





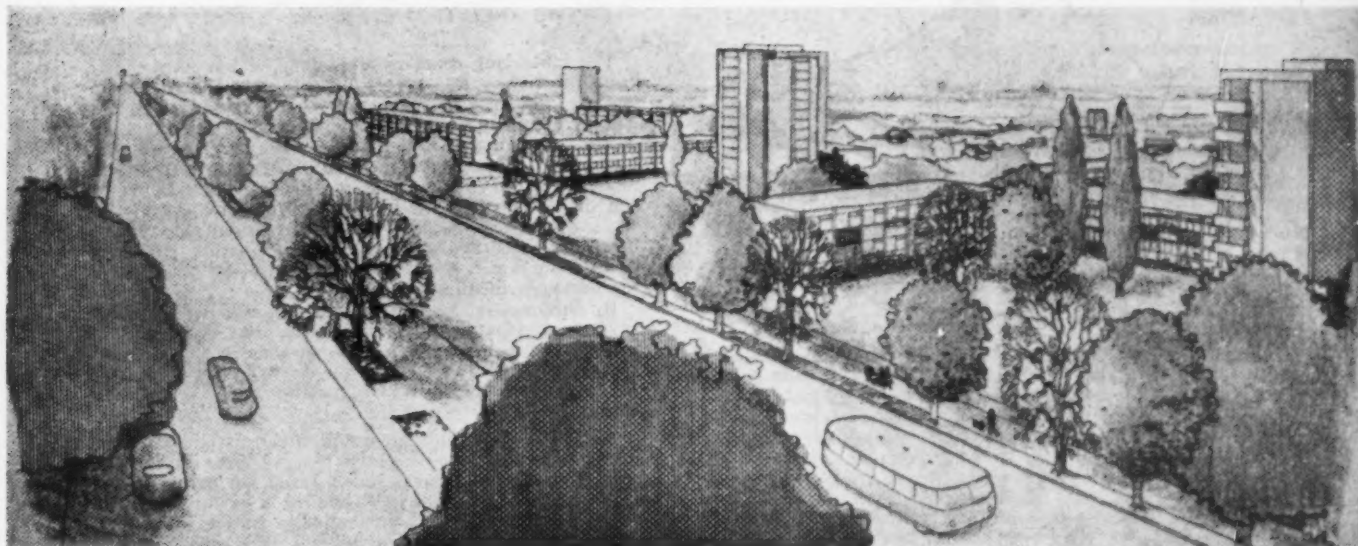
Left, the flatted factory provides an answer to the integration of hundreds of small businesses (previous foreground) upon which the wealth of the city partly depends. Below, two views of the centre of this thriving city show pedestrian and motor traffic congestion. New ring roads and replanning in the centre are solving these problems. Facing page, an impression of the proposed Calthorpe estate as designed by John Madin. The first 10 years of the plan will cost an estimated £25,000,000. The housing density of the estate had to be increased to meet the local authority's requirements from 1.5 houses to nine houses to the acre—more than trebling the population of the area to a new total of 26,000

BIRMINGHAM REBUILDS

It will be seen that Birmingham's redevelopment is a team operation; the Public Works Department is responsible for zoning, land acquisition, programming in phases, making new roads, the provision of water and drainage, street lighting and the improvement of rivers and streams. The City Architect's Department is responsible for the design, layout and construction of all Corporation housing, schools and other municipal buildings, and for comprehensive housing layouts for the redevelopment areas.

With such comprehensive control there are splendid opportunities in the city for imaginative building on a grand scale and Birmingham's architectural, surveying and engineering professions are flourishing as never before. Noteworthy schemes include John D. Madin's development proposals for the Calthorpe estate; James Roberts' Smallbrook Street development and 12-storey rotunda block at the head of the Bull Ring adjoining the new city markets area; Cotton, Ballard & Blow's new building on the Theatre Royal site to house one of the largest Woolworth's stores in the country; and Essex, Goodman & Suggitt's seven-storey building in the Old Square, where two textile firms in competition have combined to form a new company to build a single building to provide themselves with independent warehouses and showrooms, sharing common services and having interior parking for 125 cars. These are but a few examples of what Sir Herbert J. Manzoni has described recently as an almost frightening volume of development now going on in the city. There are many more. Let the city architect have the last word in this introduction before turning in more detail to the current work of his department in building new Birmingham. Mr. Sheppard Fidler says: "The face of the city centre is changing daily as this huge programme of redevelopment and new building gets into its stride. The pieces of the jig-saw are quickly falling into place and a new Birmingham is emerging. The central areas, which have so marked an influence on the character of the city, when completed, will make Birmingham a cleaner, more open and stimulating place: a city in which to take great pride. Never in its history has the city so well earned its motto 'Forward'."





FACTS AND FIGURES

AREA ... 51,147 acres = 79.92 square miles.

Span (a) North to South—12 miles.

(b) East to West—9 miles (both measured through city centre).

(c) Maximum distance (N.E. to S.W.)—13.5 miles (not measured through city centre).

Measured Perimeter approximately 50 miles, of which approximately 25 miles about on built-up areas. (Excluding parks, golf courses, etc.)

POPULATION

(a) Whole city.

Registrar General's Estimate.

1958 Mid-year ... 1,095,000, a FALL of 24,000 in six years.

(b) In the five central redevelopment areas.

1957 Mid-year ... 89,600 of which in new dwellings ... 3,650

(This represents a fall of 27,100 in the seven years since mid-1950.)

Ultimate planned population for the five redevelopment areas—56,700.

Birmingham Overspill Tenancies.

(Up to 31 December, 1958—11 authorities)

Total dwellings ... 530

Population received ... 2,115

CITY EXPANSION

1801 Area of town—8,493 acres. Population—70,670.

1891 Area of city—8,493 acres. Population—429,168.

There was a boundary increase in that year, after which area of city was 12,640 acres and population 478,113.

Further boundary increases in 1901 and 1911 resulted in: Area of

city—43,601 acres and population 840,202, while a final boundary

change in 1931 raised the city area to its present size and its popula-

tion to 1,002,000.

The highest population figures reached were in 1952 ... 1,119,000

Points to note are:

(a) Sixfold population increase in 90 years (1801-91) within existing boundaries.

(b) Ultimate sixfold area increase 1801-1931.

(c) Fourteenfold population increase over same period.

Before the original boundary extension of 1891, the gross density for

the city was 50.5 persons per acre, whereas by 1931 it had dropped to

19.6 persons per acre.

This was because of the low density of the inter-war housing estates.

Between 1918 and June, 1939:

The corporation built ... 51,000 houses

On ... 5,380 acres

At an average density of ... 9.5 dwellings per acre

While private enterprise during the

same period built ... 60,000 houses at similar densities.

Together these housing developments used roughly one fifth of all

land in the city.

This accounts for the present land shortage and the need to build to high densities on the remaining undeveloped housing sites wherever they occur within the city boundary.

THE REDEVELOPMENT AREAS

The five central redevelopment areas (acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order in 1947, under Section 9 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1944) all lie within a two mile radius of the city centre.

Combined total area ... 1,379 acres

Area included in C.P.O. ... 981 acres

This contained ... 29,763 houses of which 24,670 were unfit

Defects included:

Back to back houses ... 16,950

Houses without separate W.C. ... 18,591

Houses without bath ... 22,259

Houses without internal water supply ... 3,853

Houses without gas or electricity ... 76

Figures from Housing Survey Report, by Medical Officer of Health, 1946.

Number of houses demolished from 1950—December 31, 1958 7,193

Number of new dwellings completed ... 1,500

Both for December, 1958.

Dwellings under construction during 1959 ... 1,200

(When a start may probably be made with a further 770)

Total dwellings ultimately proposed ... 16,529

All dwellings will ultimately be new, but meanwhile, of 19,800 old

dwellings at present under management by the housing manager,

15,500 have been completely reconditioned under his department's

"Soling and Heeling" programme (excluding a further 700 in other

slum clearance areas).

Other development in the central redevelopment areas:

New shops completed by the corporation ... 12

Flatted factories built by the corporation ... 2

New schools built or under construction ... 4

Factories built by private enterprise ... 34

(With a further 12 in course of erection).

Areas cleared in Lee Bank and Ladywood for the first public open spaces.

The City Surveyor's 1955 estimate of the total cost of the redevelopment

programme—little doubt that it would involve a capital

expenditure at least of the order of £50,000,000.

EDUCATION

Between 1946 and 1954 Birmingham's school population increased

by 50,000 from 131,000 to 181,000 and this exceptionally severe

"bulge" has now passed through to the top of the school system. The

present child population under 15 had fallen by August, 1958, to

261,426 as compared with 269,014 in August, 1956.

The city has just opened its hundredth new post-war county school,

Ward End Mixed Modern School.



THE PROBLEM

IN 1801 Birmingham was $\frac{1}{4}$ th its present size. A town of 8,500 acres with a few adjoining townships and a population of some 70,000. But a sixfold population increase occurred between 1801 and 1891, while the main boundary increase was not until 1911. Since 1891 the population has nearly trebled.

That is the arithmetical background to the redevelopment of the central areas.

Land Usage

The town of 1801 is our main field. Up to 1911 overcrowding within its boundaries was increased, not only by the rising population but also by loss of land (e.g., to railways).

Housing was dense and low—largely back-to-backs built within walking distance of factories (before days of public transport) and increasingly mixed with backyard workshops. Public open space at the centre almost totally lacking. Road system inadequate to a modern city and the only major improvement—Corporation Street, 1875-81.

Redevelopment schemes now in being cover a total of some 4,000 acres (or nearly half the area of the old town).

Nor is this all, since private enterprise is actively developing sites at the centre but off the main line of the inner ring road. Examples are: the Big Top, Shell House, Marks & Spencers, and Harrods, and the multi-storey garage in Cornwall Street, while it takes no account of radial road widenings, e.g., Digbeth and Bristol Street. It should also be noted that the housing clearance areas, where in groups, may form the basis of future central redevelopment areas.

The importance of these schemes is that they cover every aspect of urban life. Residential, educational, industrial, commercial, civic and recreational requirements are for the first time considered together, and are related to a sound system of communications.

Planning for the Motor Vehicle

The motor vehicle is the fundamental consideration of modern urban life, both in motion and at rest. If we fail to master it, it will become a tyrant to us.

The inner ring road, by excluding all but local traffic from the city centre, creates a zone where the pedestrian has predominance and enables building to be carried out at higher density where the land is most valuable.

Traffic serving the area round the city centre will use the inner ring road to which Broad Street, with a dual carriageway, will act as one feeder. But the traffic for the civic centre itself coming from five ways will, so far as possible, be drawn off at the western civic centre boundary into two convenient back service perimeter roads from which short feeder roads will be provided to the buildings themselves.

By this means the civic centre area too will be kept as a predominantly pedestrian zone, and the value of this will be seen when we come to consider public open space.

Civic Centre Scheme

Apart from the traffic diversion already referred to, the master plan for the civic centre has two great merits.

(1) It links the council house and town hall with the main scheme.

(2) By planning the new buildings in the main area informally in a landscape setting, it creates what is virtually a new public park within five minutes walk of the city centre.

Design for Living

Having dealt with the city centre and the civic centre, we now come to the third great element in the city's core. The areas where people live, learn and make things. These functions are associated and are best dealt with together.

Nature of Housing Development

Why build high? The question is often asked in view of the housing manager's opinion that 90 per cent of would-be Corporation tenants prefer houses with gardens. It is not done for any aesthetic whim.

The main reasons are as follows:

(a) *General land shortage.* Birmingham Corporation's 51,000 inter-war houses were low density (9.5 dwellings per acre) and occupied 5,380 acres of land.

Similar private enterprise housing was nearly 60,000 dwellings.

Together these housing developments used roughly one fifth of *all* land in the city, while the Corporation's share *alone* was larger than the combined acreage of the five central redevelopment areas (all purposes), the areas of comprehensive redevelopment, all housing clearance areas designated to date, and the whole of the Calthorpe estate.

As a result, once Sheldon and Shard End were developed, post-war sites tended to be small and difficult, e.g., Millpool Hill—an extreme instance.

Thus free land in large areas was not available to receive families displaced from the centre.

(b) *New land uses in redevelopment areas themselves.* These include: (1) New main roads, e.g., intermediate ring. (2) Enlarged school sites. (3) Public open space on the basis of four acres per 1,000 population. (4) Health centres, tenants' rooms, etc.

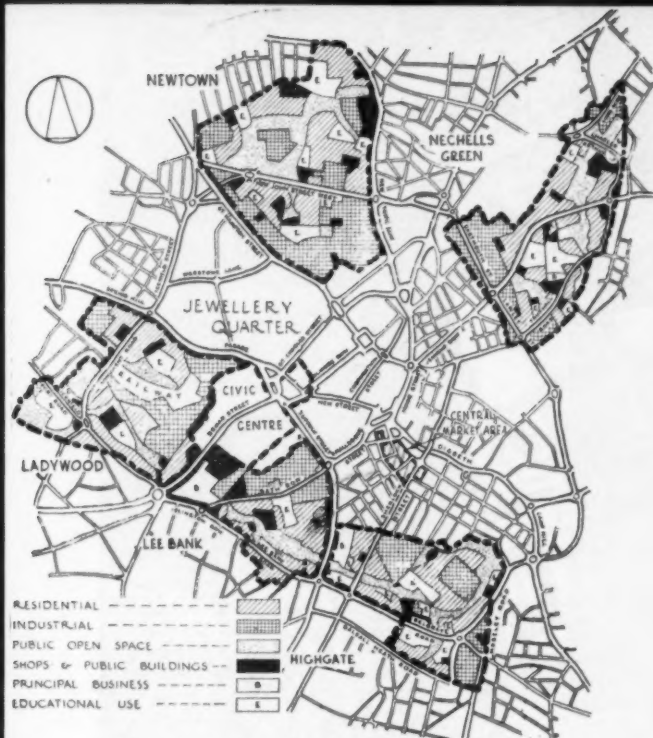
(c) *Higher standards of daylighting, sunlighting and amenity to the dwellings themselves.*

The only saving of *land* is the elimination of redundant roads.

So we are thrown back on the use of housing land here to high efficiency, and this implies some tall blocks if the loss in density is not to be too great.

The neighbourhood theory. Tall blocks, even with additional subsidies are more costly than houses both in capital cost and cost of running and repair. They must not be used for purely aesthetic reasons.

*The neighbourhood theory of mixed development—*pioneered in the County of London plan—is the one adopted in planning housing in Birmingham's redevelopment areas. It is based on sociological and practical assumptions.



The central redevelopment areas

ARCHITECTS CONCERNED

In the Birmingham Architects' Department

HOUSING SCHEMES

Highgate Housing Layout Unit 401/5/11	H. E. BUTEUX—Senior Architect (Housing). S. WILDE—Assistant-Principal. B. L. LEICESTER—Group Architect. U. K. PIATOWSKI. R. GRANELLI.
Unit 402	H. H. E. LEA—Group Architect.
Nechells Green Unit 11	R. M. COPE—Group Architect.
Hawkesley Farm Moat Estate	J. L. KENT—in charge. G. E. GOTT—Group Architect—in charge.

Projects

12-storey type flats	J. SHARP—Group Architect.
9-storey type flats	R. MIRKOWSKI—Project Architect.

GENERAL SCHEMES

Normanhurst Old People's Home	J. WATSON—Senior Architect (General). L. A. HOWLES—Assistant-Principal Architect.
Northfield Fire Station	E. THOMSON—former Group Architect. E. WRIGHT—in charge.
Tyburn Road Bus Depot	R. W. TIPPETTS—Group Architect. H. A. LEES—in charge. T. P. ZUNDE—in charge.

Projects

Lifford Works	N. J. WILLIAMS.
Park Hill Old People's Home	MISS J. VAWSER—Group Architect.
Tower Hill Branch Library	MISS J. VAWSER—Project Architect.

SCHOOLS

Lea Mason School	E. MASON—Senior Architect (Schools). S. G. V. MILLIGAN—Principal Architect Schools.
Nechells Green Nursery	H. O. WILLIAMS—Assistant-Principal Architect Schools.
Selly Oak Boys' Secondary Modern School	B. RUSH. K. PRUDHOE—in charge. G. JAMES.
Swanhurst Girls' Schools	G. JAMES. F. HEMMING, R. B. D. SMITH and F. GRANT TAIT.

Sociologically. It is good that people should spend their lives in one neighbourhood and so develop a feeling for it which leads to lasting friendships and good citizenship.

Practically. This is done by providing a balanced mixture of houses for large families, maisonnettes and flats for smaller families and single persons and, if possible, a few bungalows for the elderly. People move from one type of dwelling to another as their circumstances change, and this ensures reasonably full occupancy all the time.

The Overall Picture

What has already been done?

- 1,485 new dwellings built in three areas.
- 1,208 already under construction or contracts let (when work will start in the remaining two).
- 770 on which it is also hoped to start during 1959.
- 15,000 houses repaired under the housing manager's soling and healing programme.
- 2 new flatted factories opened, and
- 34 factories built by private enterprise and 12 in process of erection.
- 4 schools built or building in the redevelopment areas and areas of public open space cleared.

In time we are nearing the half-way mark of the original suggested programme of 25 years.

The pieces of the jig-saw are beginning to fall into place and link up.

Projects

South Birmingham Technical College	MISS J. VAWSER and G. JAMES.
College of Art, Gosta Green	S. G. V. MILLIGAN.
Cromwell Street Nursery School	G. WALTHO—Group Architect.

Perspectives by: MISS D. JACKSON

CONSULTANTS

Nechells Green Redevelopment Area II

Quantity Surveyors: (a) Site Works—John C. Barnsley. (b) Buildings—City Architect's Dept.

Hawkesley Farm Moat Estate

Consulting Engineers: W. V. Zinn & Associates.

Lea Mason School

Quantity Surveyors: L. C. Wakeman & Partners. Structural Engineers: G. W. Costain & Partners. Consultant Engineers: A. F. Myers & Partners.

Normanhurst

Structural Engineer: The City Engineer & Surveyor: Public Works Department. Structural and Mechanical Installations: Hoare, Lea & Partners.

Northfield Fire Station

Structural Engineering Consultant: City Engineer & Surveyor. Mechanical Services Consultant: City Engineer & Surveyor.

Swanhurst School

Quantity Surveyors: Silk & Frazier. Mechanical and Electrical Services: Hoare, Lea & Partners. Structural Consultant: S. Willis.

Selly Oak School

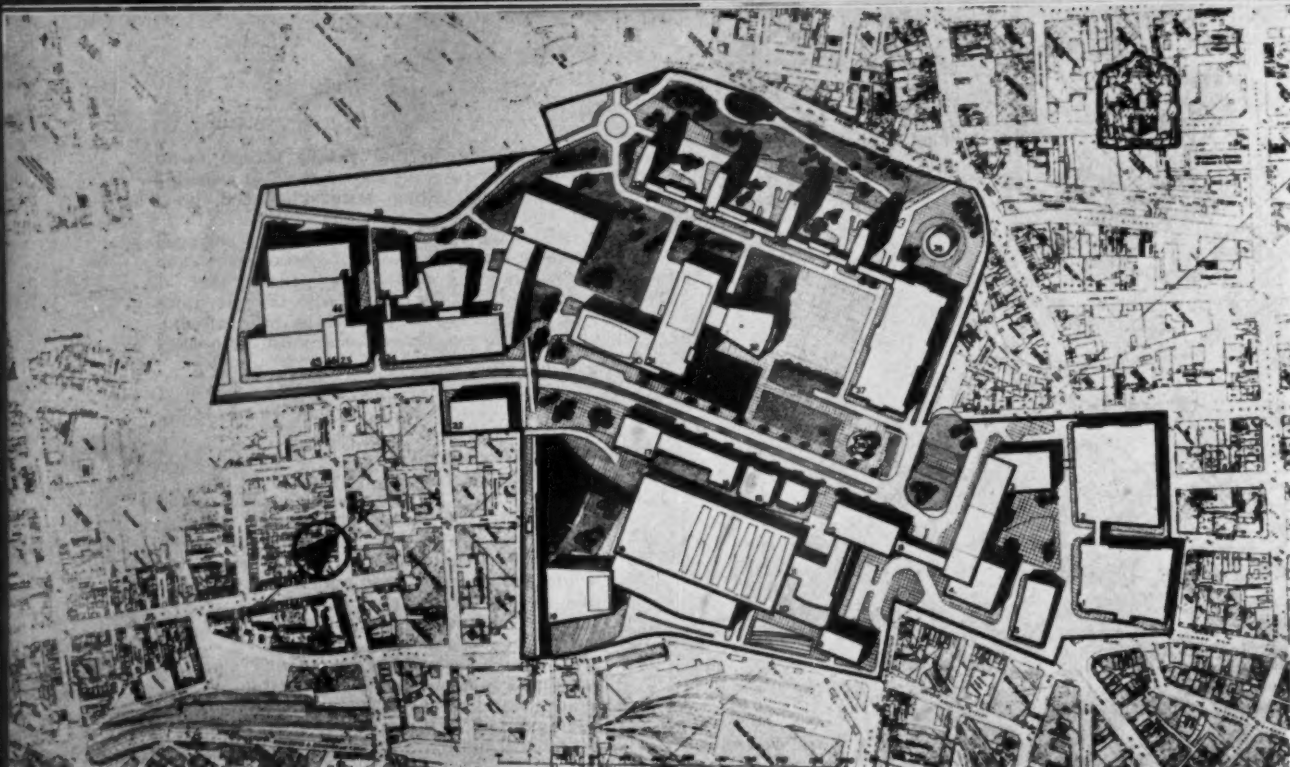
Quantity Surveyors: L. C. Wakeman & Partners. Consulting Structural Engineers: Kaylor & Pick. Consulting Mechanical Engineers: Donald Rudd & Partners. Consultant for Specialist Pre-cast Concrete Construction: Wheatley Bryon & Partners Ltd.

Nechells Green Nursery Unit

Quantity Surveyors: L. C. Wakeman & Partners. Consulting Mechanical Engineer: Sir Herbert Manzoni. City Engineer & Surveyor.

S. Birmingham Technical College

Quantity Surveyors: Silk & Frazier. Mechanical and Electrical Services: A. F. Myers & Partners. Structural Consultants: W. V. Zinn & Associates.



Photos: LOGAN

THE CIVIC CENTRE

THE main design conception of the master plan for the civic centre area is one of precincts and informal groupings of buildings which will take account of changes in the elements of the programme and facilitate stage-by-stage development, a very important factor as much of the site is now covered by buildings. This scheme envisages buildings set in open landscape with fine trees and the use of water, giving the informality of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges rather than the monumentality of the Roman forum.

Detailed programme requirements for individual buildings are not determined, although floor space, volume and general plan have been carefully considered. The sketch perspectives have been prepared, therefore, to illustrate the proposals in three dimensions to give life to a paper plan.

The area covered by these proposals extends to a total of 80 acres. The larger proportion of the site is bisected by Broad Street, one of the main radial roads leading to the west, which meets the line of the proposed inner ring road at its eastern extremity.

The diversion of Broad Street and the ring road was considered too ambitious financially which is why the site has been treated as three large precincts—north and south of Broad Street and to the east around Chamberlain Place where the existing civic buildings are.

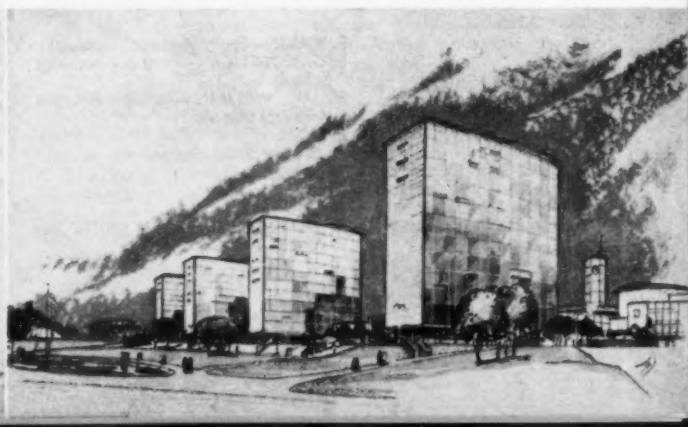
Approaching the centre from the west, a corridor type development down Broad Street is continued by proposals for new office buildings, central swimming bath, a multi-storey car park, and a new composite building which could accommodate the Midland Institute, University

House, a hall of marriage and people's hall for large public gatherings. At this point the scheme opens out giving interesting views north and south, and the change in direction in Broad Street is punctuated by the line of a slender footbridge to link the two precincts.

The main element in the northern precinct is the city hall group including a public banqueting chamber with civic suite; a philharmonic hall and civic theatre linked in a single complex, which would permit the inter-use of lounges, foyers and restaurants; a water garden with fountains, sculpture and a terrace accessible to the public; a tall tower on the axis of Broad Street; and a large parade ground. The present civic centre building is unfinished and it is felt that this should be completed as originally intended, at least as far as its elevations are concerned.

KEY:

1. Council house. 2. Council house extension. 3. Art gallery. 4. Museum block. 5. Town hall. 6. Commercial building. 7. General Post Office. 8. Commercial building. 9. Commercial building. 10. Shopping centre. 11. Exhibition hall entrance. 12. Library block. 13. Bridge. 14. Masonic hall. 15. Municipal bank. 16. Unallocated. 17. Unallocated. 18. Exhibition hall. 19. Small hall. 20. Commercial building. 21. Canal building. 22. Commercial building. 23. Bush house. 24. Midland Institute. 25. Unallocated. 26. Lecture hall. 27. Hall of Marriage. 28. People's hall. 29. Unallocated. 30. Civic theatre. 31. City hall. 32. Philharmonic hall. 33. Office block. 34. Office block. 35. Office block. 36. Office block. 37. Civic centre block. 38. Hall of Memory. 39. Planetarium. 40. Unallocated. 41. Commercial building. 42. Office block. 43. Unallocated. 44. Swimming baths. 45. Multi-storey car park. 46. Public health building.



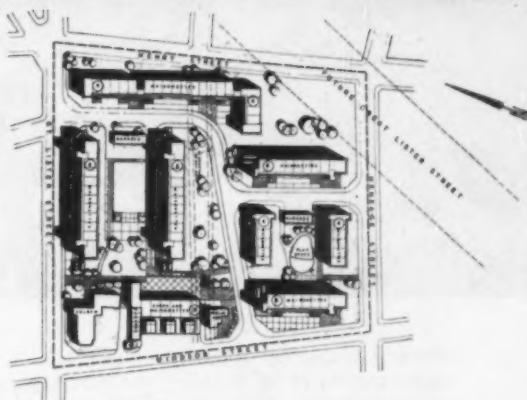


The model shows the first of a series of play sculpture features. Built in reinforced concrete with metal guard rails it comprises a chute with access by vertical companion way and overhead platform, Sculptor: John Bridgeman

Photo: LEWIS & RANDALL

CENTRAL REDEVELOPMENT AREA

On this page we briefly illustrate Nechells Green Redevelopment Area Unit 11 as being a preview to the work on the drawing board described on following pages. Unit 11, the latest housing unit to be completed in this area, occupies an island site immediately to the south of the existing Great Lister Street



Proposed 12-storey flats for Nechells Green area

FACTORS affecting its layout were the presence of old cellars, the need to retain the underground services in Coleman Street (shown dotted on the plan) and the future realignment and widening of Great Lister Street to form a through parkway to the centre of the city. When this occurs the new road will take a bold southward sweep from a point to the north-east of the unit and will then cut off the eastern corner of the site.

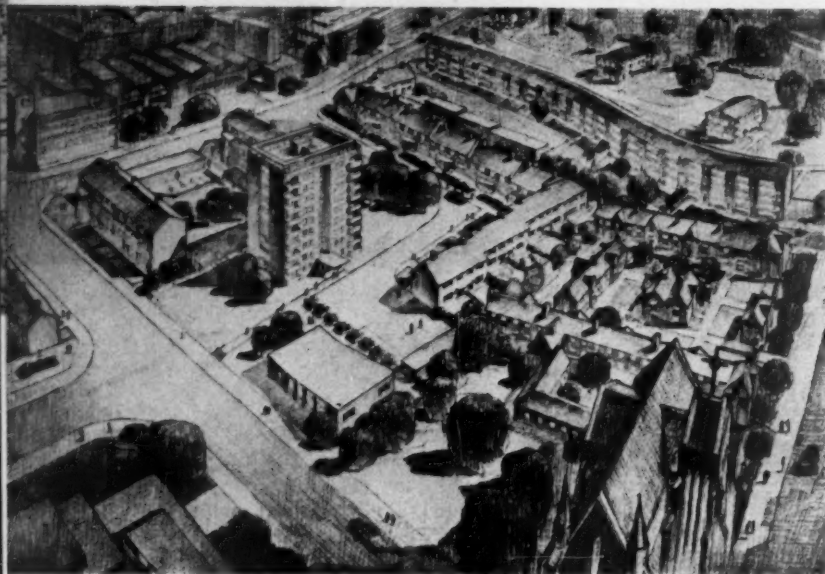
The layout is, as far as possible, designed on the inward looking principle around two courts, the smaller of which has been laid out as a play area for the smaller children. Living rooms in all blocks face south or east and these blocks, which enclose the unit on its eastern side, will have extensive views across the future parkway.

Construction generally is with 7in reinforced concrete cross walls with reinforced concrete strip foundations at depths varying with the local conditions.



THE HIGHTGATE REDEVELOPMENT AREA

We describe one of the inner redevelopment areas in detail and choose Hightgate to show more clearly the aims of the city town planners and architects. This is the fourth of the redevelopment areas where work has started on one unit, two more are going out to tender and a further four are included in the immediate building programme. The planned zone includes the pre-war St. Martin's estate, the city's original attempt at comprehensive housing in flats



Above, a perspective impression of unit 410: In the bottom right-hand corner the church of St. Alban the Martyr gives a key to the existing townscape below. Beyond the church in the lower photograph is the St. Martin's estate

LESSONS learnt from this scheme, and tested over the past 10 years in other areas, are fully applied for the first time in the new layout.

The results may be summed up as follows:

First: Housing units are large and visually interrelated.

Secondly: A proportion of two-storey housing is included in mixed development, the loss of density being offset by taller tall blocks.

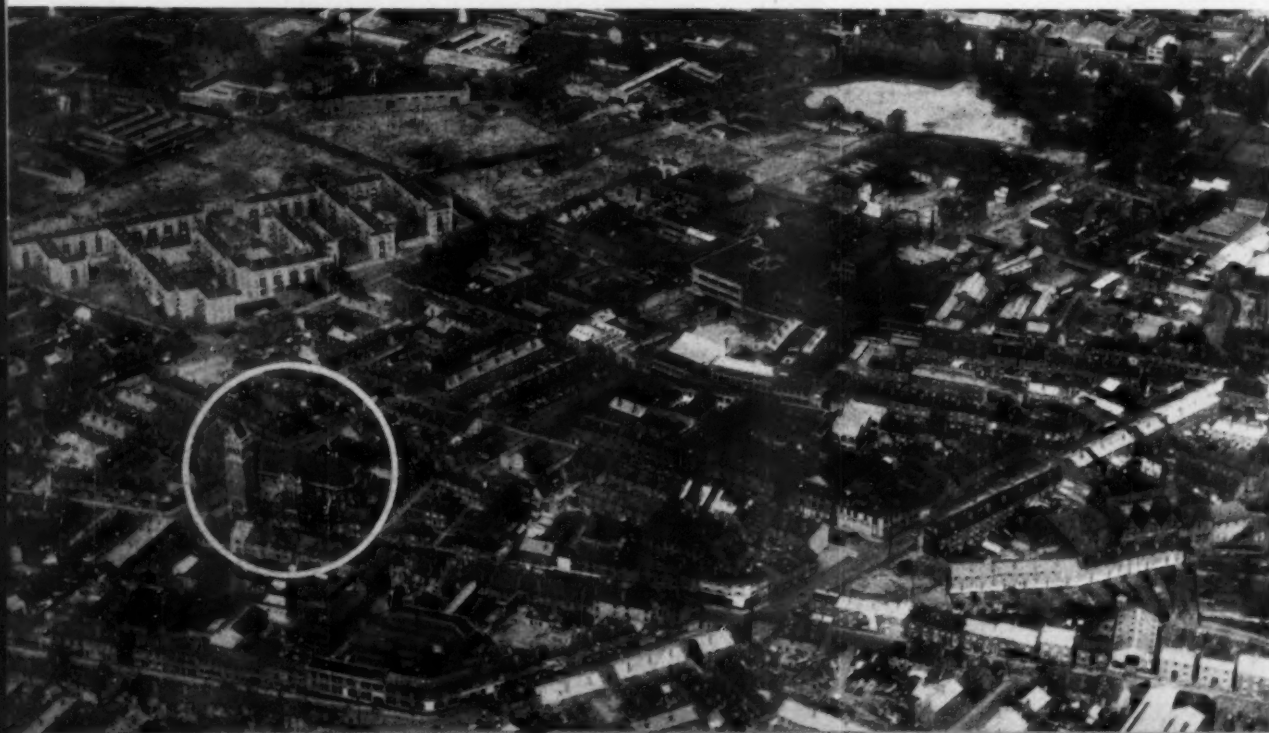
Thirdly: The sequence of redevelopment must move wherever possible from one unit to its neighbour. The aim is the creation of a new urban atmosphere and no reconstructed unit must be left for long in isolation.

Fourthly: More efficient land utilization is achieved by the mixed use of selected sites.

The Area Described

The Hightgate area lies roughly one mile south-east of the city centre, and to the east of Lee Bank redevelopment area.

Photo by courtesy of the CITY ENGINEER and SURVEYOR





It is 236 acres in extent with a total planned population of 10,000 in 69-45 residential acres of which approximately 54 acres fall within the present layout.

The city's intermediate ring road will traverse the area in a broad arc, linking main radial roads along its eastern and western boundaries and crossed within the area by Sherlock Street, a secondary radial, at a fly-over junction.

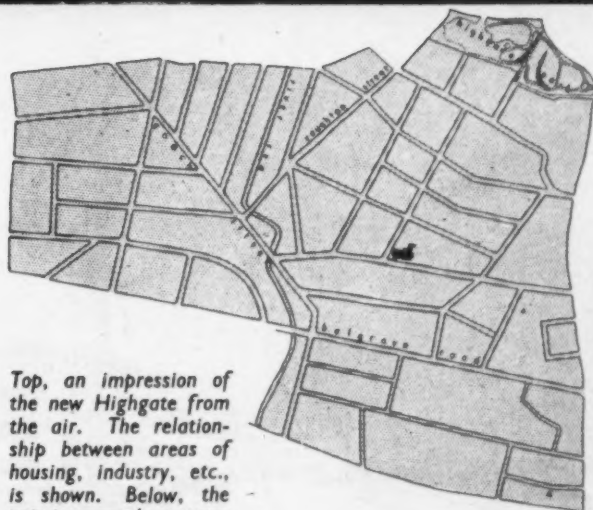
The present layout covers all housing land to the north of the ring road, which will be redeveloped to house 7,700 people in 2,062 dwellings, at densities of 39.72 dwellings, 131.14 habitable rooms and 141.63 persons per acre.

These figures include the St. Martin's flats but not the existing Lench Trust Almshouses nor any housing over shops or within shopping precincts, as in Unit 402, which is described later.

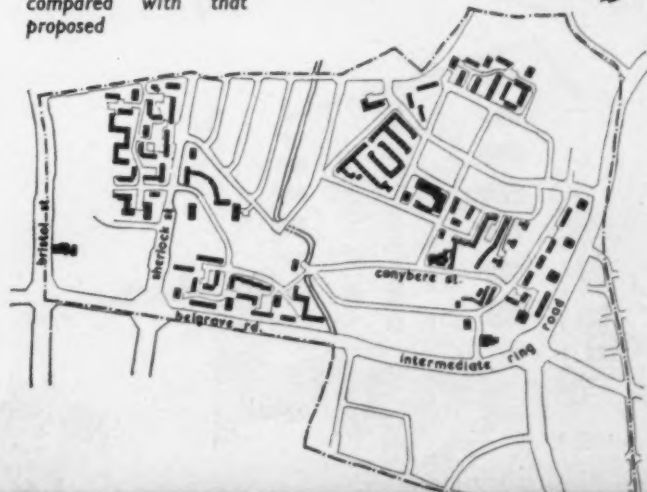
The Zoning Plan

Zoning Highgate presented the city surveyor's town planners with some special problems. Apart from the sub-divisions caused by major roads, the area is bisected from north to south by the River Rea.

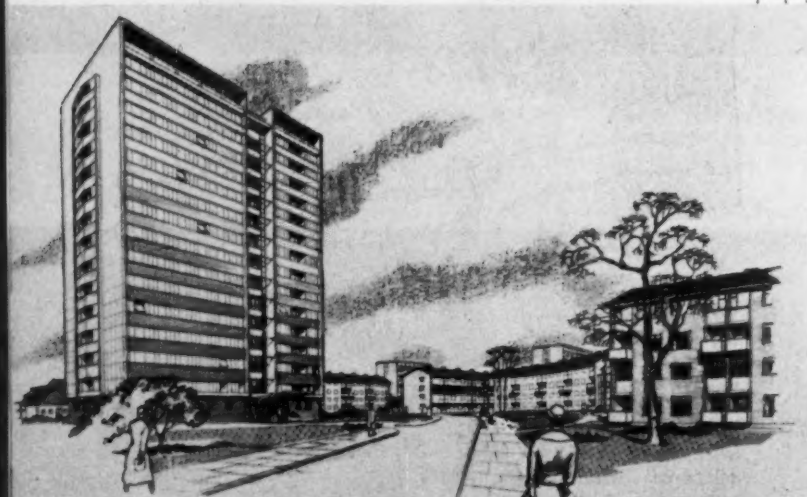
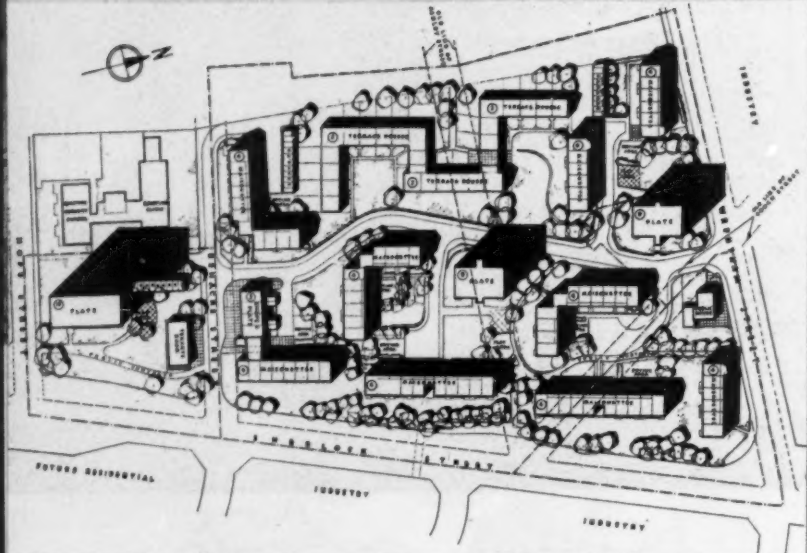
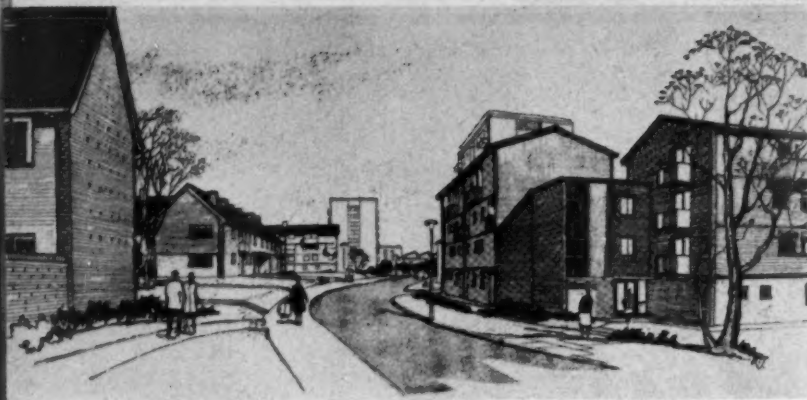
Towards this the ground falls sharply from the north-east at a gradient of 1 in 17, runs level across the valley floor and then climbs with a gradual but increasing slope to the western boundary and beyond it into the Bath Row area. The stream itself



Top, an impression of the new Highgate from the air. The relationship between areas of housing, industry, etc., is shown. Below, the existing road pattern compared with that proposed



HIGHGATE REDEVELOPMENT



is today of little importance and will be largely run in culverts.

Turning to man-made features the subsidiary street pattern and land uses were chaotic and allowed for much simplification, but the grouping of new industrial zones round major industries excluded from the compulsory purchase order has created one such zone in the centre of the main residential district.

Finally, the only existing public open space was a small park awkwardly sited in the area's extreme north-east corner.

This has been supplemented by a green public walk linking it with the western boundary where it joins a similar walk through Lee Bank.

Ultimately it is hoped to extend this through other areas to form a green ring round the city centre.

The Housing Layout

It is within this framework and the requirements of the housing manager, that the city architect's housing layout has been prepared.

Poor existing conditions have, in fact, given him unusual freedom, since the only buildings of merit retained, besides the St. Martin's flats, are three churches, two of which lie within educational sites.

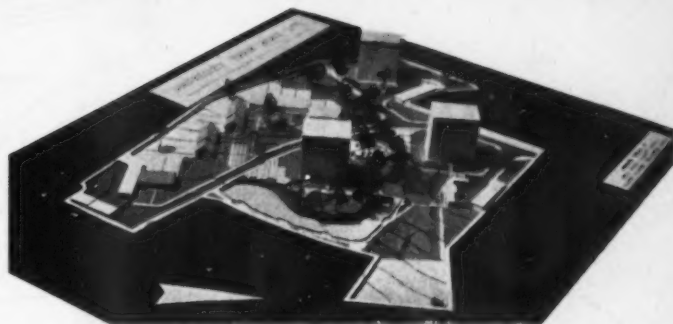
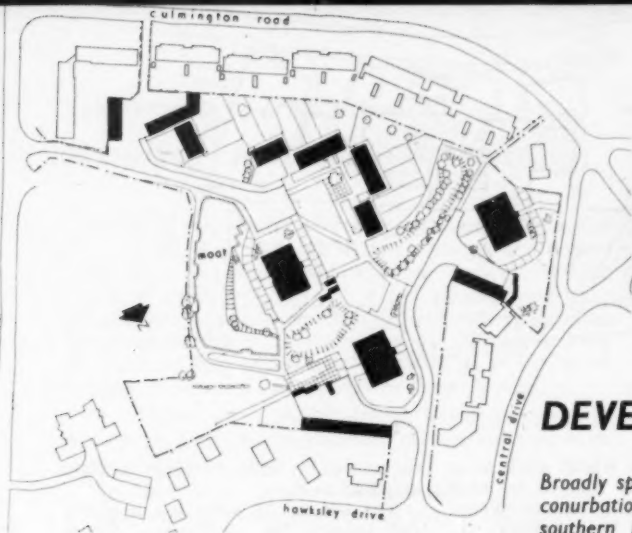
The Highgate layout differs in important respects from anything yet attempted in earlier redevelopment housing in the city.

Despite the uniform high density, 8.39 per cent of all dwellings are in one- and two-storey houses offset by 49.37 per cent in blocks of 9, 12, and 16 storeys.

The balance of accommodation is contained in a few three-storey blocks and in four-storey maisonnettes.

The cost analysis of various possible layouts for a large part of the area prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has shown that this treatment is not only visually effective but actually considerably cheaper than anything attempted hitherto, while the introduction of mixed uses, including housing, into a subsidiary shopping unit, suggests a promising field for land economy in the future.

1. Unit 405 seen from the south with, below, a layout plan. 2. 15 storey flats in the west sector, with a quadrant of four-storey maisonnettes beyond. 3. Flats with shops under in the west sector 402



DEVELOPMENT AT THE PERIMETER

Broadly speaking the city is enclosed on three sides by the West Midland conurbation with continuous stretches of open country only along its southern boundary. This is the basic restriction to outward growth. Here we illustrate one part of this growth at the perimeter of Birmingham

HAWKESLEY FARM

MOAT ESTATE

THE Hawkesley Farm Moat site forms a part of the West Health group of estates and lies some 6½ miles to the south-west of the city centre.

When the original comprehensive layout was prepared the farm and moat area was reserved as an open space mainly on account of the site being scheduled as an "Ancient Monument". The layout for the development of the site, with 108 dwellings, was prepared with the specific object of preserving the open character of the area and form of the moat, and to avoid building where it was thought old foundations existed.

Footpaths link all parts of the site and there is no through way for vehicular traffic. Planting and seating is included in the landscaping between the blocks of flats and provision made for a children's play area.

The point blocks have been designed with four flats per floor, a hallway passing through the centre of the block, terminating with a staircase at either end. One lift is provided at either end and each block contains one lift. Twelve old persons' homes are also provided.

Photos: LOGAN

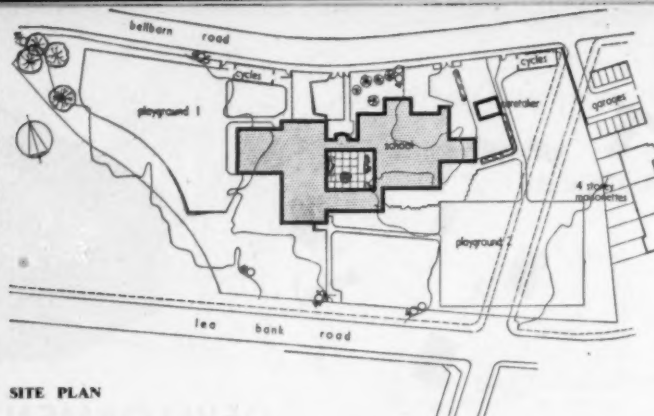


Above, eight-storey flats seen across the moat and, below, the old persons' bungalows



RECENT WORK BY THE CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

On the following pages we briefly describe new and projected work by the Architects' Department taken at random from the City



SITE PLAN

THIS school, on which work is in progress, is the first to be built in the city's central redevelopment areas, replacing the existing St. Thomas's Church of England Secondary School in Bath Row. It will be completed in readiness for opening in September, 1960. Accommodation has been designed for 450 boys and girls, and, in addition, there is an

exceptionally large evening institute attached to it.

The site of 3½ acres has a gentle fall towards the south-east. Given this restricted site and the accommodation requirements, a three-form entry school with additional further education facilities, compact planning became a necessity.

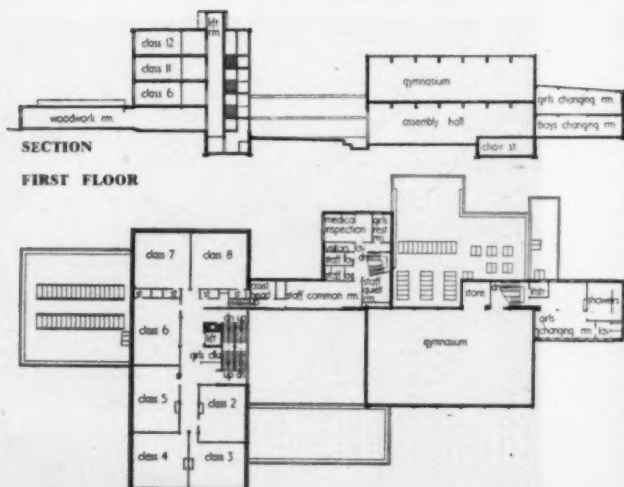
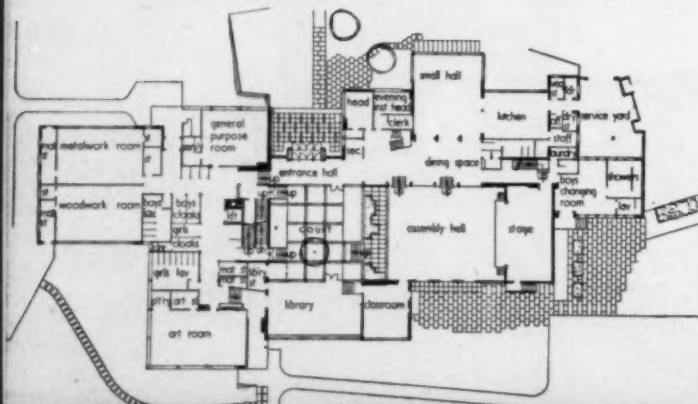
Gross tender figure is £166,385.



LEA MASON SECONDARY SCHOOL

GROUND-FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE: 1 IN = 72 FT

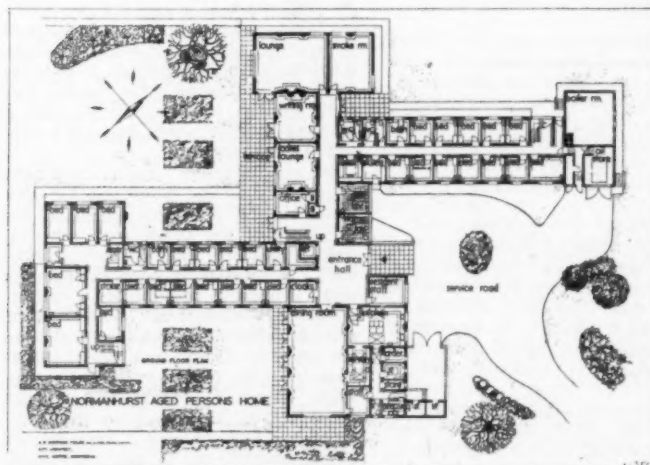


PLANNING FOR AGED PERSONS

As well as considerable alterations to bring existing homes up to modern standards, the welfare department at present builds about one new home each year, two of the most recent of which are described in the accompanying illustrations and script. It will be seen that varying solutions have been found to a similar problem, the main object being to reduce walking distances to the minimum (which is not necessarily the same as reducing circulation space).

The corridors were found to be rather long at Normanhurst, and the quadrangular plan at Park Hill was adopted in an attempt to reduce them.

The latest home, which is now at sketch design stage, reduces walking distance almost to nil, by concentrating small communities of residents, with its own services, on each of a number of floors, in a multi-storey block relying on lifts for the major circulation. A three-storey home is under construction at the moment.



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE: 1 IN=72 FT

In this home residents are encouraged to do all that they can for themselves. To this end all corridors have been made at least 4ft 6in and all doors 3ft wide, to allow for the free passage of residents in wheel chairs who can also use the centrally sited automatic lift, while continuous corridor wall handrails are provided to help those who can walk

NORMANHURST OLD PEOPLE'S HOME



"NORMANHURST", the most ambitious old people's home yet completed in Birmingham, occupies a pleasing two-acre site to the west of Sutton Road and in the southern corner of the new Lyndhurst neighbourhood unit in which it will form an important element.

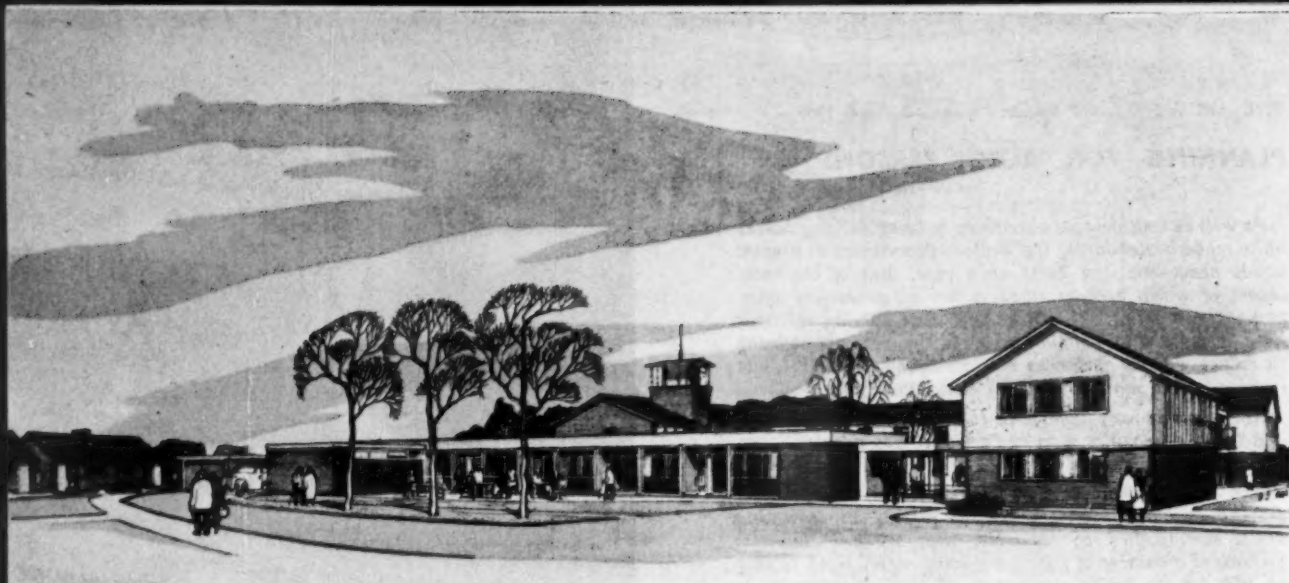
With a total floor area of 22,465ft, it provides comfortable living accommodation and communal amenities for 75 frail ambulant elderly people of both sexes, in the care of a matron with five resident staff.

For so large a "home" to live up to its name, careful planning is needed to remove any hint of architectural institutionalism. It is vital to avoid the mechanical effect of endless door-lined corridors and to see that there are no sunless bedrooms. The open cruciform plan of "Normanhurst" avoids both pitfalls.

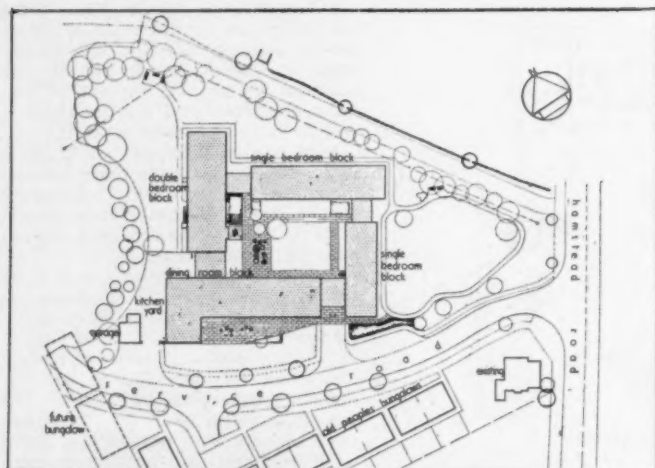
"Normanhurst" is entirely in load-bearing brick cavity construction, with piers carrying steel beams over the longer spans. Floors are *in situ* reinforced concrete, finished with cork in the public rooms and main circulation areas and thermoplastic tiles elsewhere, apart from quarry tiling in the service rooms.

Photos: BIRMINGHAM POST STUDIOS

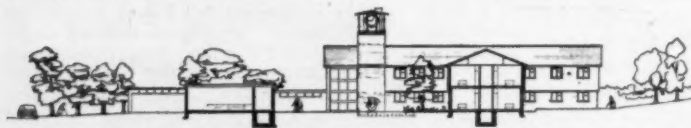




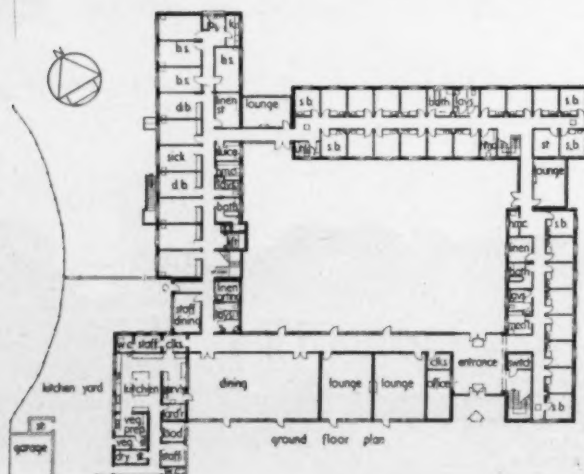
OLD PEOPLE'S HOME AT PARK HILL



SITE PLAN. SCALE: 1 IN=128 FT



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN AND SECTION. SCALE: 1 IN=64 FT



THE site, bounded by Hamstead Hill, Park Hill and the two existing service roads thereto, is fairly level (with a fall of approximately 5ft from north-west to south-east). Due to mining subsidence, the home has been limited to two storeys and is planned in four wings around a central garden court.

In the external design and the positioning of the home on the site, consideration has been given to the grouping of the block with the proposed adjacent old people's bungalows. Rooms have been designed in small groups to provide for a nearer-domestic atmosphere. To this same end, lounges have been provided in six units of fairly small size, rather than in two or three large rooms. Each group of rooms will thereby provide for a "lounge-community" feeling. The dining room-lounge block, forming the single-storey south wing, has a ceiling height of 9ft (1ft greater than the smaller rooms elsewhere). A central garden court provides a sheltered sitting-out area for the old people.

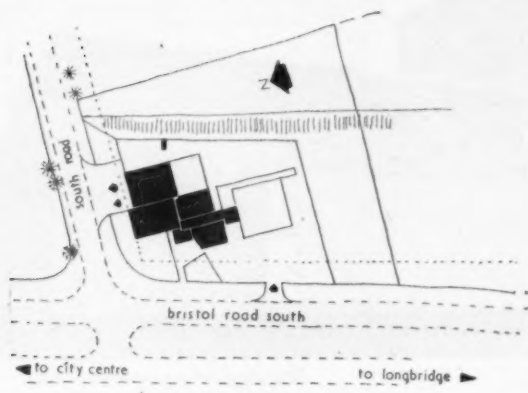
Accommodation includes 50 single bedrooms, 13 double bedrooms, a sick bay for two people, and a garage sited at south-west corner of the site to reduce the area of the service access.

Oil-fired boilers will provide for central heating and domestic hot-water, and a boiler room has been provided at basement level under part of the west wing.

The estimated costs are as follows:

	£	s	d
Estimated cost of the home	84,050	0	0
Estimated cost of site works, garages and store	8,500	0	0
Total cost	£92,550	0	0

Plans and section on the left show the planning of the home around a central garden court. An intimate domestic scale has been created. The first floor (not shown) has further accommodation on three sides and a visitors' room



NORTHFIELD FIRE STATION

THE site is to the south of South Road, at the junction with the east side of Bristol Road South, a dual-track arterial road. It was stipulated that the entrance to the appliance room should be from South Road to enable appliances to proceed in either direction on Bristol Road South. The return entrance to the drill yard only was permitted to be from Bristol Road South. This condition, therefore, dictated the layout of the essential parts of the building.

Walls are of load-bearing brick construction on reinforced concrete foundations.

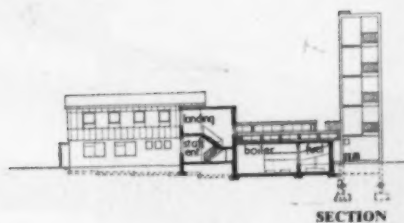
First floor and roofs over the ancillary rooms to the dormitory and over the boiler house are of *in situ* reinforced concrete with an asphalt covering. The hose-drying and drill tower is of reinforced concrete frame construction with brick infilling panels.

Externally the walls are of brown sandfaced facing bricks, except to the first-floor recreation room, which is

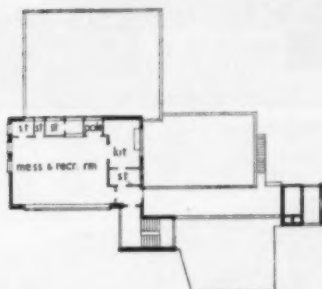
faced with pre-cast exposed aggregate concrete slabs. The washdown and drill apron, externally, are paved with concrete, the forecourt and drill-yard with tarmacadam, station entrance and staff entrance paths with stone flags. Grassed areas have been kept to a minimum to reduce time spent on upkeep.

The building will be heated by a low-pressure hot-water system operated by oil-fired boilers. Domestic hot-water will also be provided from a separate oil-fired boiler. Heating plant and oil storage is located in a semi-sunk boiler house, and the flue is incorporated in the hose-drying tower.

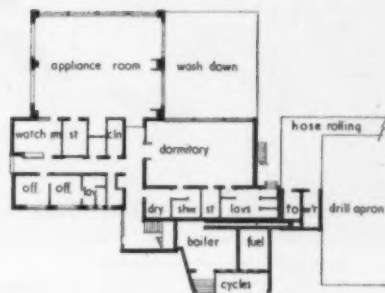
Accommodation was required for two appliances, with the possibility of provision for a third appliance in the future. Dormitories are provided for the station officer and crews with ancillary accommodation for a combined mess room and recreation room capable of being used for social functions and lectures to which the public may be admitted.



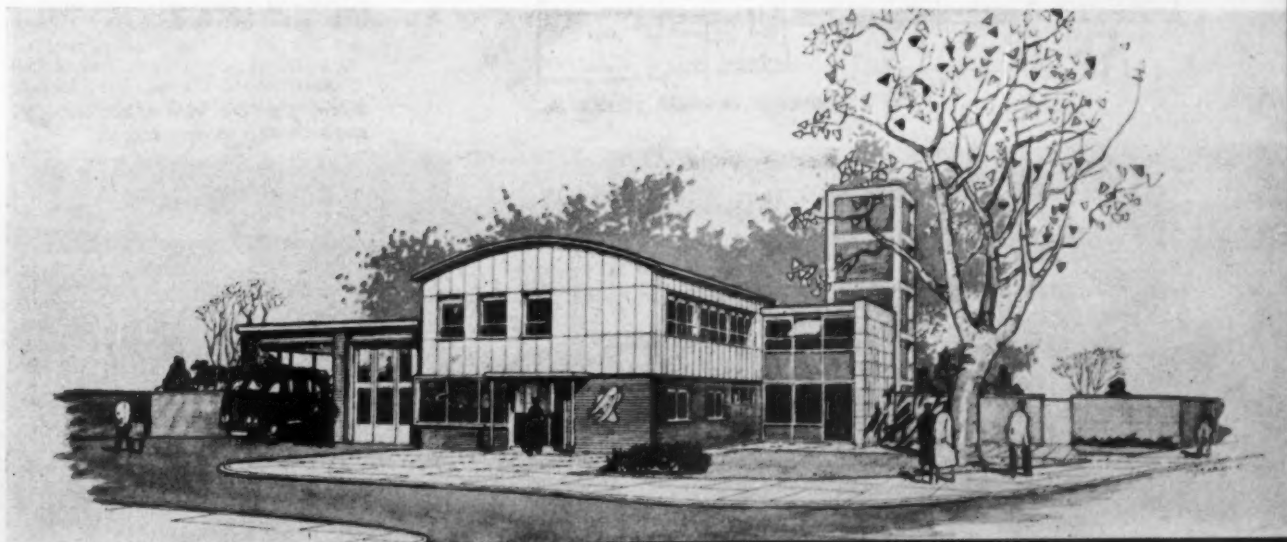
SECTION

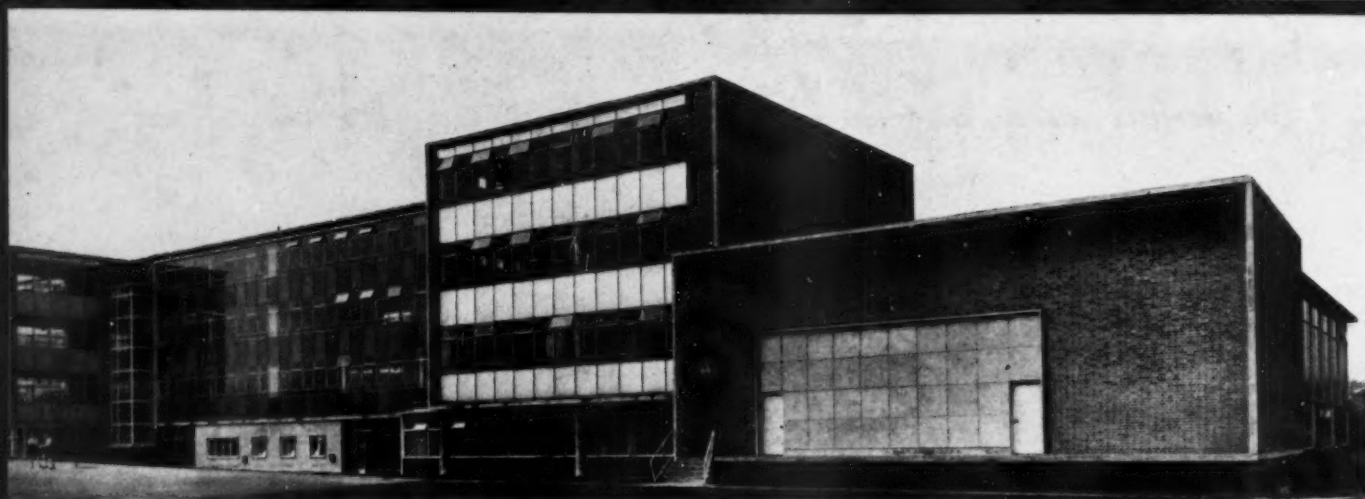


FIRST FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR
SCALE: 1 IN = 56 FT

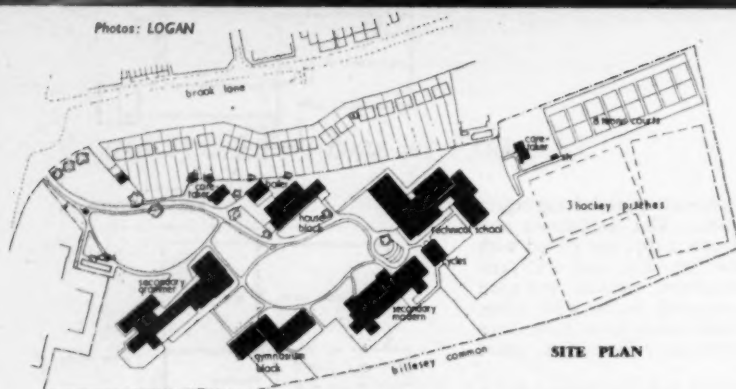
A perspective below shows the main frontage of the station. The hose drying tower in the background is located to allow for hose practice without danger of interference with adjacent owners or the public



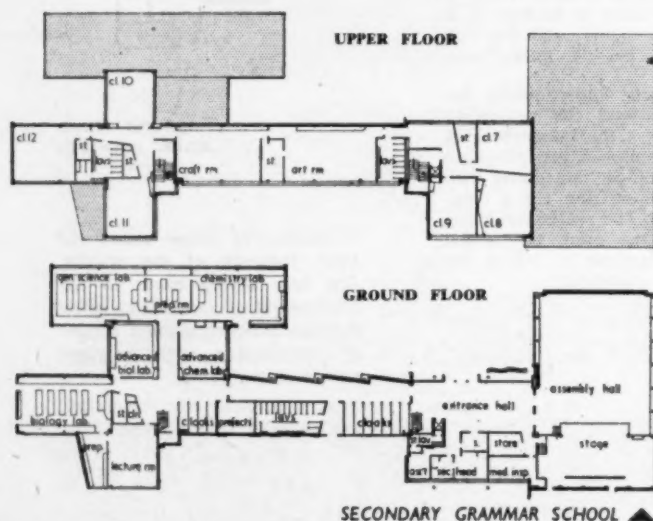


Photos: LOGAN

The secondary grammar school



SWANSHURST GIRLS' SCHOOLS



SECONDARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL ▲

THESE consist of three-form entry grammar, secondary modern and technical schools in individual school buildings grouped on a site formerly occupied by allotment gardens. The site is bounded on three sides by existing residential development and on the south side by Billesey Common. Access is by a common entrance road from the north-west corner.

Individual buildings are heated from a single boiler house adjacent to the house block. This block contains a kitchen able to provide 1,350 meals and has six dining rooms.

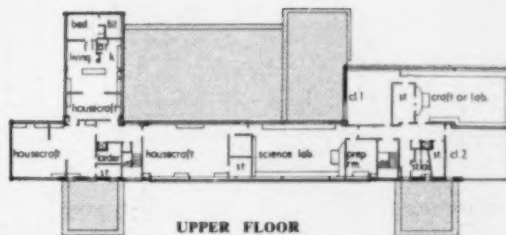
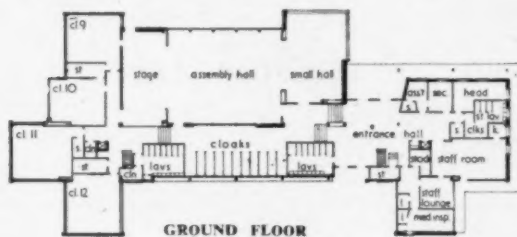
The grammar school provides accommodation for 510 pupils and was completed in September, 1956; the secondary modern school provides accommodation for 450 pupils and was completed in December, 1957; and the technical school will accommodate 570 pupils and was completed in January, 1959.

Gymnasias and changing rooms of the grammar and modern schools are combined in an individual building positioned between the two schools. Hockey pitches and tennis courts at the rear of the technical school are for communal use, additional pitches being available on the adjacent common.

The schools are framed in structural steelwork with pre-cast beam floors, brick gable walls and patent glazing. Roofs are of pre-cast beams, except the technical school where timber joists carry woodwool slabs, screed and a three-layer felt finish.

Below, a general view of the technical and secondary modern schools

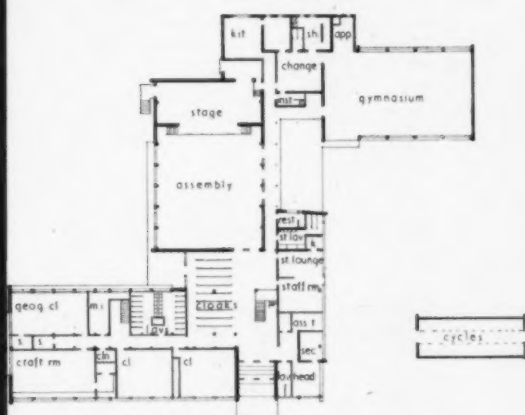




▲ SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

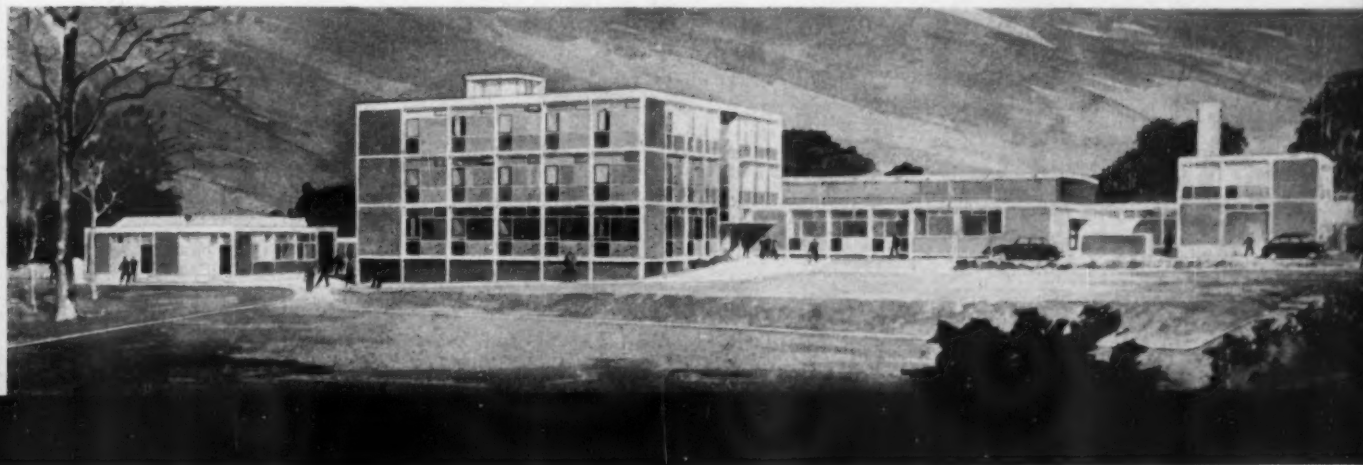
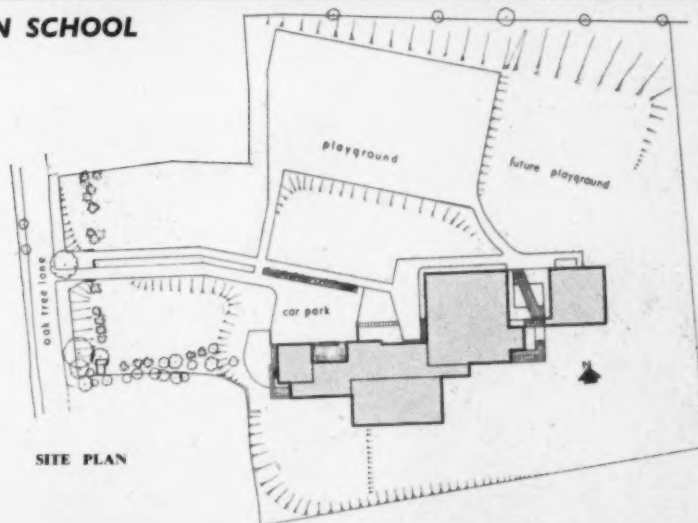
▼ TECHNICAL SCHOOL

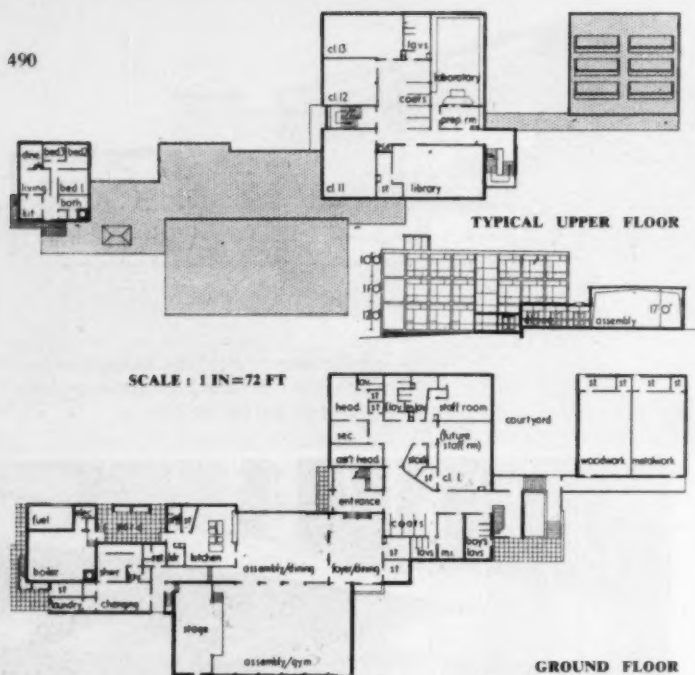
Below, an entrance detail to the technical school. Construction is in steel with pre-cast beam floors, brick gable walls and patent glazing

**SELLY OAK SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL**

THIS school is to replace an existing building and is situated on the south side of the city on a sloping site of approximately four acres formerly occupied by allotment gardens, the highest part of the site being on the north sides.

The school is designed to be built in two instalments, the first being a two-form entry of the final four-form entry school and it has been planned to allow the future extensions to be carried out with the minimum of disturbance to the operation of that part of the school in use. The final position of the school on the site was determined after a site investigation had revealed considerable variation in the bearing capacity of the ground





**PROPOSED
NURSERY
SCHOOL
CROMWELL STREET**

THE school site is adjacent to a district centre in Nechells Green, comprising shops, tenants' room, health centre and church group. Its informal landscaping is continuous with that around three 16-storey blocks of flats. The school itself is built around the end of one of these blocks. Facing bricks are the same for both units, and the scales are related.

Accommodation is for 60 children

SELLY OAK SCHOOL

Continued from page 489

between the north and south sides of the site.

Structure is of site pre-cast reinforced concrete with no down stand beams in the floor and roof construction and with columns on a 10ft by 23ft 4in grid. Infill panels are of brick and prefabricated timber.

Accommodation in the first instalment is for 300 boys and it will be completed in readiness for opening in January, 1960.

and, including ancillary rooms, covers some 4,116 square feet. Large windows give on to partly covered outside play areas and lawns.

Concrete sub-floors are independent of the ground beams, and mass concrete piers carry the superstructure over made-up ground and old basements. The roof is lightweight timber decking finished with asphalt.

A 16-storey block rises behind the nursery



NECHELLS GREEN NURSERY UNIT

THIS school is situated in one of the redevelopment areas of the city and is to be used in the first instance as an annexe to a secondary modern boys' school.

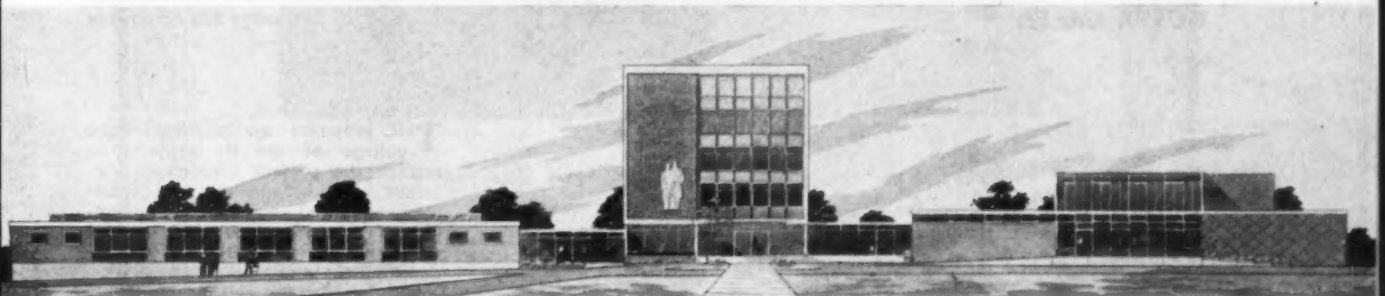
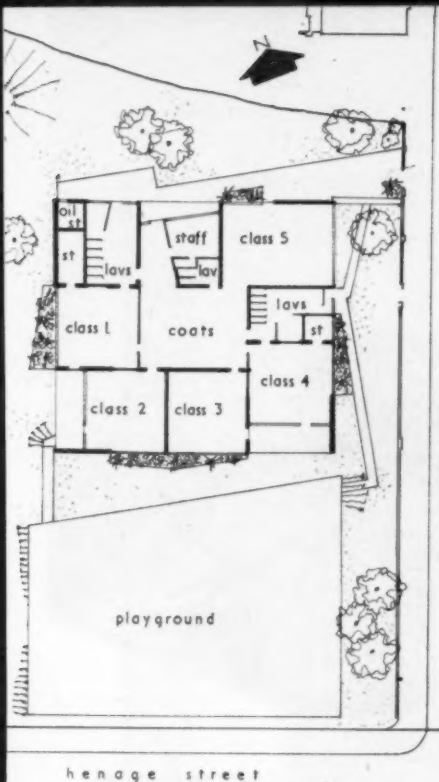
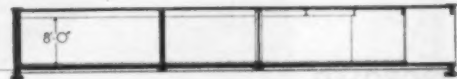
The building is planned in a simple rectangle and is constructed with load-bearing brickwork supporting the lattice steel beams at 8ft centres, which, in turn, carry a channel edged wood wool roof. Brickwork panels are faced with Accrington pressed bricks with $\frac{1}{4}$ in joints and the infill panels between the brickwork are of storey height metal windows. The lowest panes of windows have composite panels of coloured metal trays with a sealed glass facing. Plaster-

board on studding is used up to cill height behind these panels. Internally, walls are plastered and painted and wood block floors are used in the classrooms.

On conversion to a nursery unit one classroom will accommodate a kitchen and a staffroom and certain temporary panels of internal partitioning will be removed to allow inter-communication between playroom and toilets.

The school will accommodate 150 boys in the first instance and 80 to 90 children in the future nursery, and will be ready for occupation in March, 1959.

Plan and section show the unit for present use as a teaching annexe



The principal elevation

THE site for this proposed college has direct access from the Bristol-Birmingham trunk road on the south side of the city. It comprises 5.21 acres of land on which the school buildings will be situated and 5.3 acres of adjacent land which are restricted for use as playing fields. The gradient is of uniform slope down to the south-east frontage.

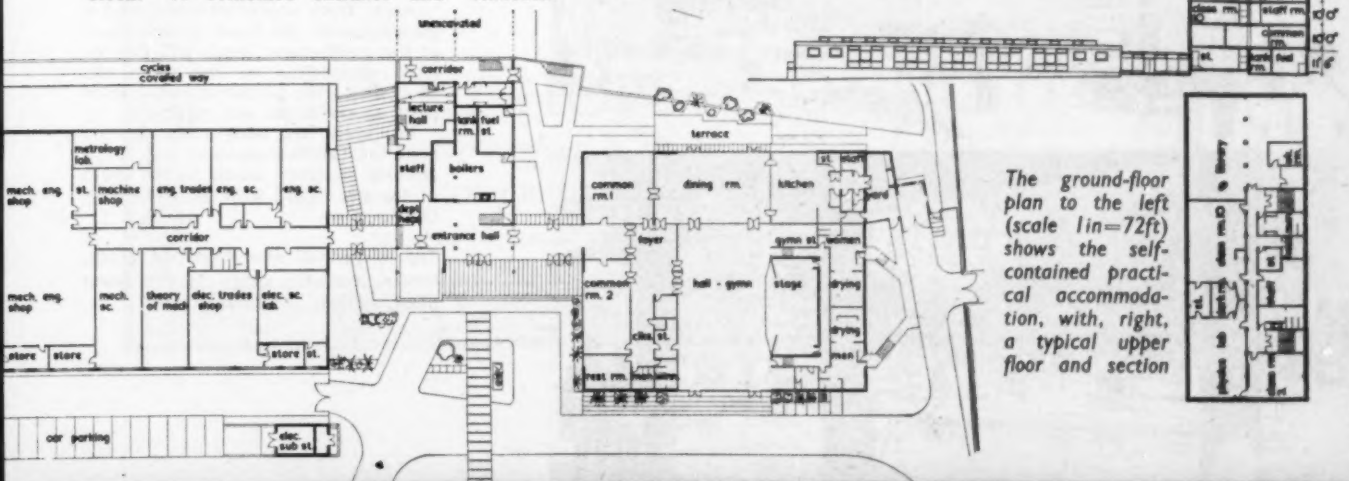
The college is planned in three units, namely, the workshop block, central teaching block and the hall block. A combined entrance and

service road is one-way with the exit road in the direction of a dual-carriage main road. A car park at the side of the workshop block is available for the delivery of materials and equipment.

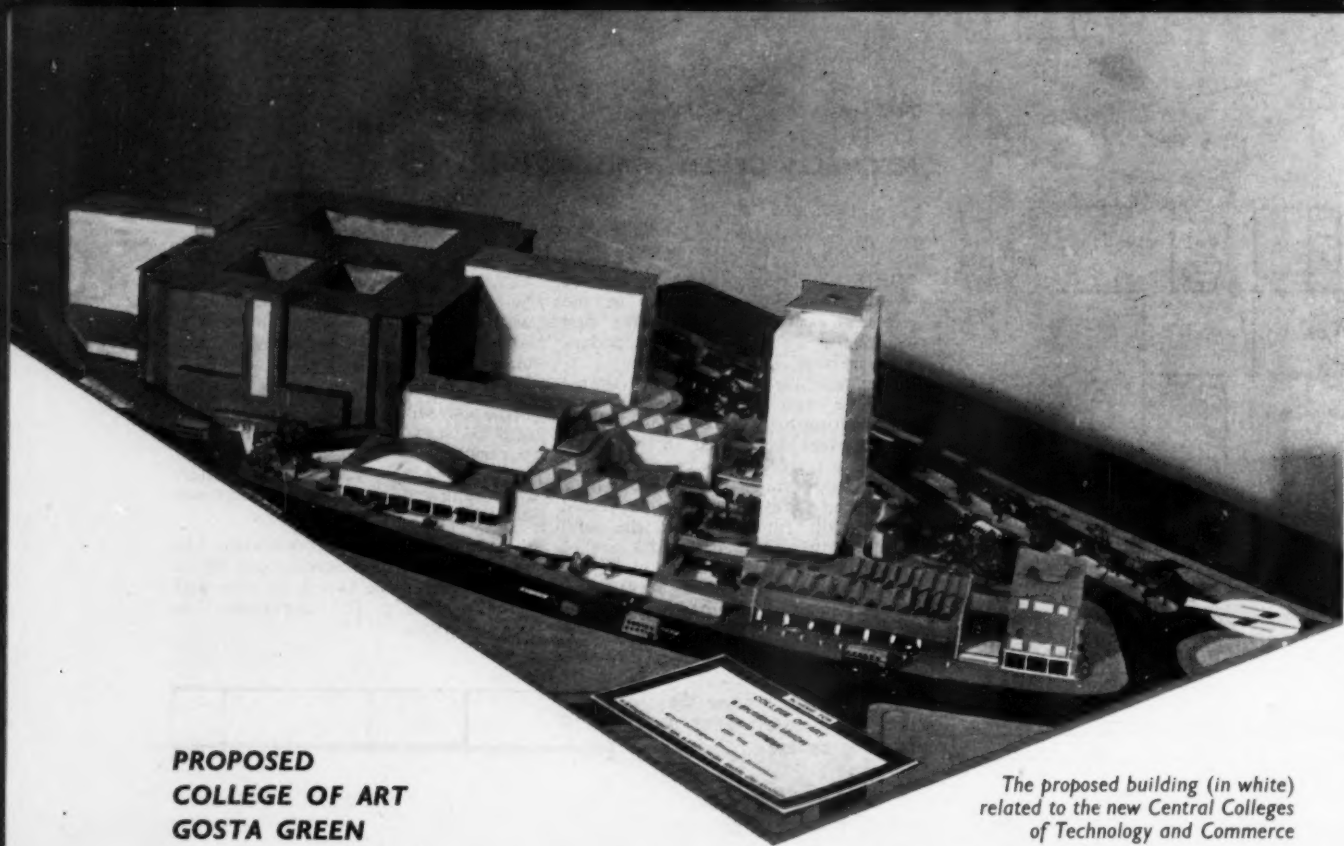
Structural frame, floor and roof are to be reinforced concrete, finished externally with white and grey renderings, infill panels being of facing brickwork with Westmorland stone and quartzite below windows.

The college will accommodate 715 students.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE

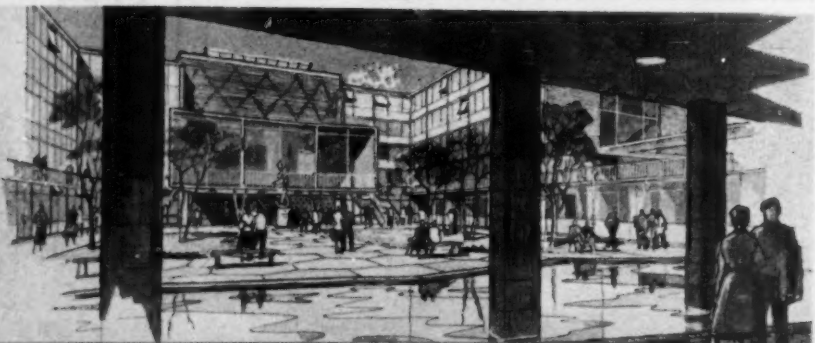
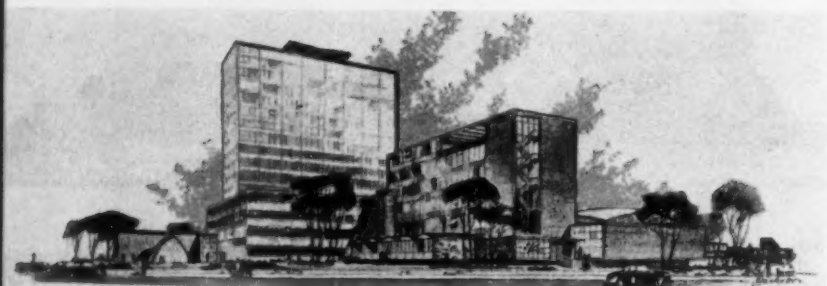


The ground-floor plan to the left (scale 1in=72ft) shows the self-contained practical accommodation, with, right, a typical upper floor and section



**PROPOSED
COLLEGE OF ART
GOSTA GREEN**

*The proposed building (in white)
related to the new Central Colleges
of Technology and Commerce*



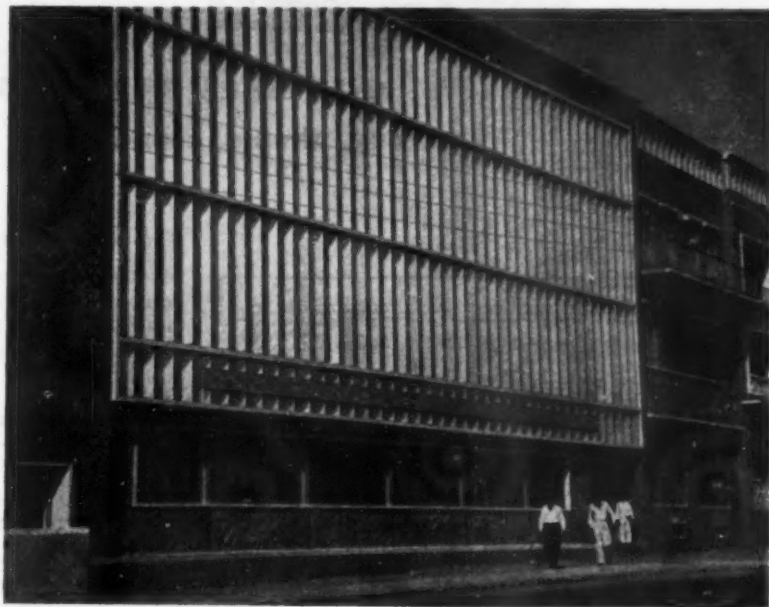
THE proposed new building for the college of art is intended to replace the present inadequate Victorian building and various departments scattered about the city in temporary accommodation, much of which will be affected under the re-development plan.

The site for the college is roughly triangular in shape with new central colleges of technology and commerce on the south side and with busy streets along the east and west sides. More quiet departments of the college are to be housed in a 17-storey block to the north of the site linked with a new school of printing now in course of erection. Departments with more noisy studios are planned in a five-storey building to the south of, and separated from, the tall block by an open planted court. Schools of sculpture and pottery are to be housed in a separate wing enclosing a small court to the west of the site.

Apart from access staircases and a glazed screen, the lower ground floor of the multi-storey block will be free from obstruction so that there will be a clear vista across an ornamental pool, to the court and refectory.

Provision has been made in the plan for future expansion and for a possible students' union to the south of the site linked with the five-storey block.

*Top, a general view from the south;
centre, entrance detail to the tower
block; bottom, an internal court*



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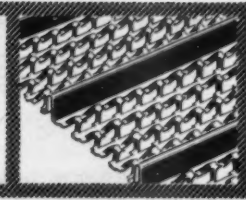
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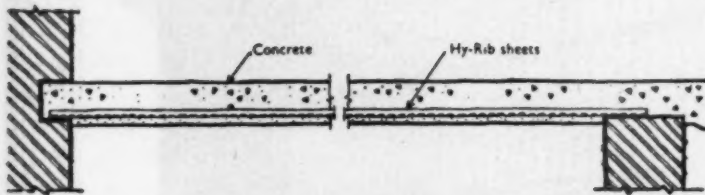


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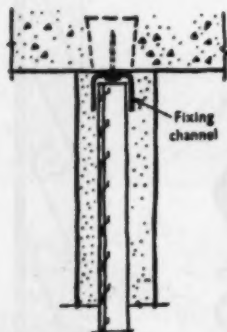


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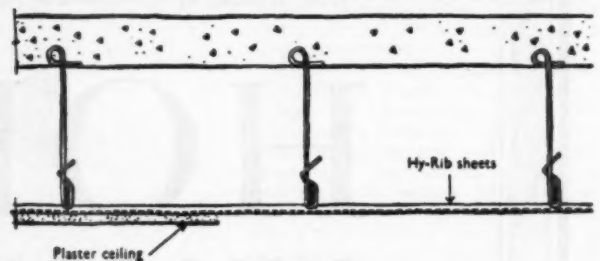
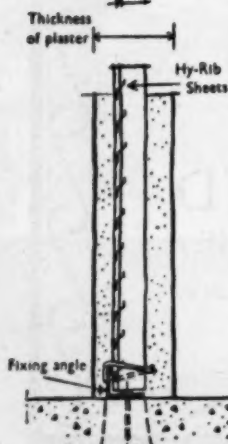
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The depot seen across an adjacent canal

THE extension will occupy sloping ground to the east of the existing depot.

Construction of the extension consists of central main workshop in tubular steel prefabricated structure in three 40ft bays spanning 105ft with load-bearing brickwork ancillary structures to the north and south. The two-storey body store is *in situ* reinforced concrete frame and roof, housing goods lift and oil hoist.

Particular care was given to eliminate fire spread by incorporating dual-purpose ventilators, sprinkler system throughout and sprayed on asbestos thermal insulation to the

"umbrella" roof over the main shop, giving overall "U" value of 21.

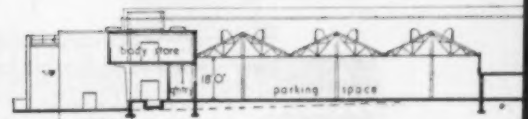
High-pressure hot-water systems for cleaning omnibus parts were adopted to ensure maximum operational safety and economy.

High-level ray strip heating is provided throughout the building with warm air curtains to all external doors.

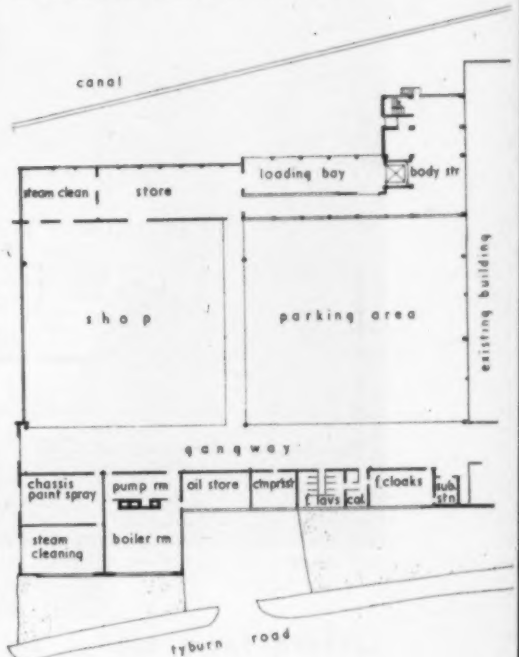
All sub-contract items were settled in detail well in advance of the preparation of bills of quantities to ensure speedy erection.

The cost, including site works, is estimated to be £165,000 and the work will commence shortly.

GROUND FLOOR. SCALE: 1 IN=80 FT



SECTION. SCALE: 1 IN=56 FT
OMNIBUS REPAIR DEPOT



REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE WORKS AT KING'S NORTON

A general view of the works. The elevated road approach to the main tipping hall may be seen in the left background

THE scheme comprising the main destructor building, canteen, garage and office block is intended to replace the existing outdated buildings.

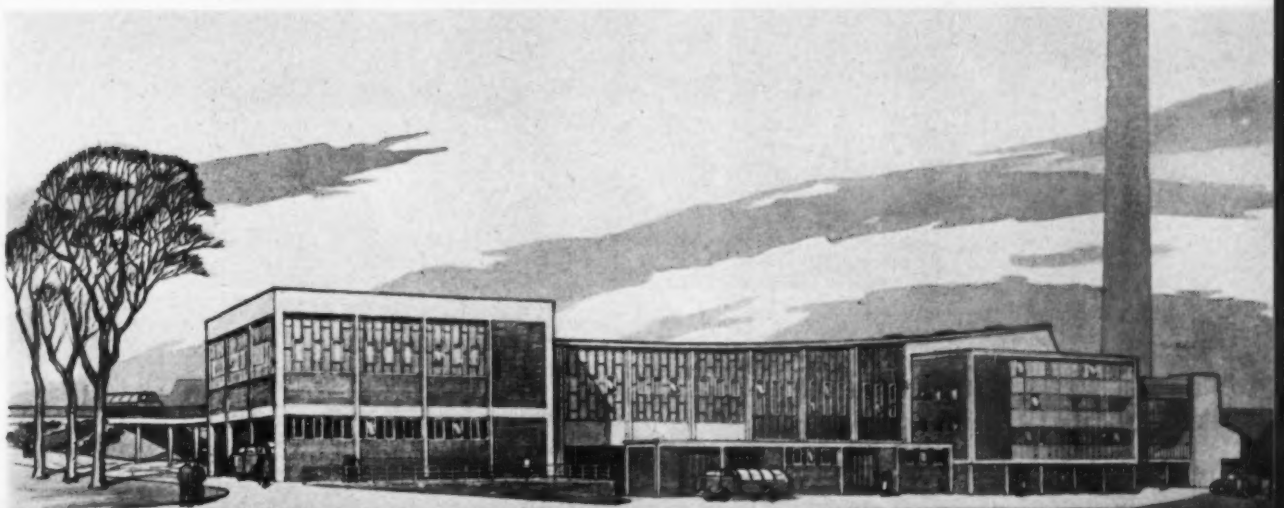
The main building is designed to accommodate a destructor plant with its hoppers, picking room, baling shop, conveyor belts and incinerator in as simple a manner as possible. General construction is of reinforced concrete frames with large areas of glass brick infill panels to facilitate ease of cleaning and give even distributed light. Internal treatment everywhere is towards flush finishes

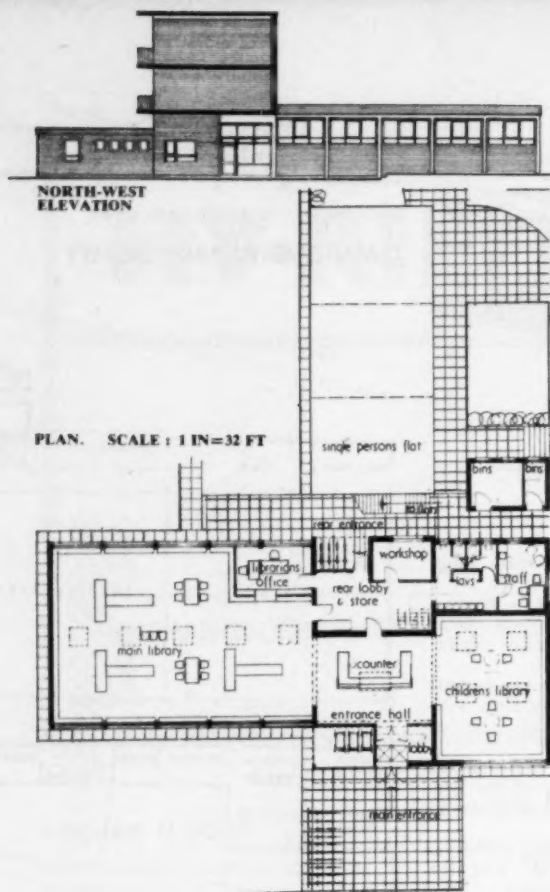
with as few dust-collecting ledges as possible.

The general outline of the building faithfully follows the flow of machinery from vehicle depositing bays to incinerators, and the summit of the upswept roof forms a vast clerestory ventilation opening.

Approach to the main tipping hall, on the first floor, is by reinforced concrete elevated roadway on mushroom-headed columns.

Offices and weighbridges are placed at the entrance of the site and contain the first-aid services.





BRANCH LIBRARY AT TOWER HILL

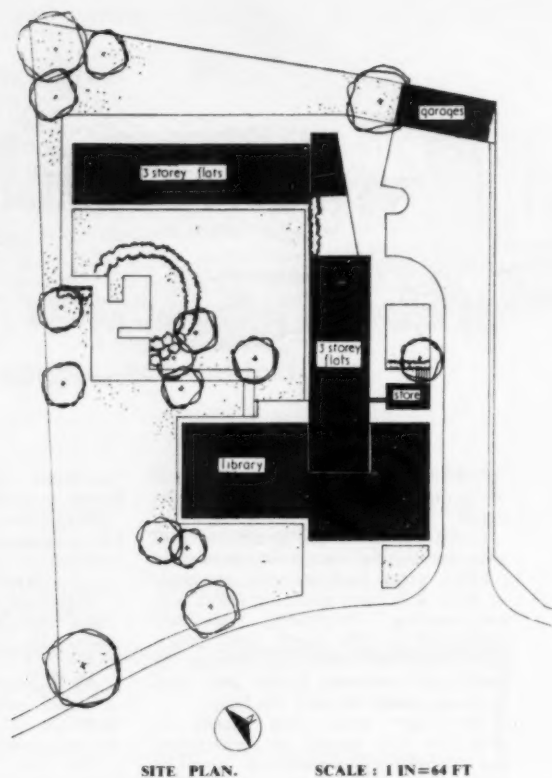
THE library shares a site with two three-storey blocks of single persons' flats and is to serve a suburb to the north of Birmingham, at present without a library. The total area of the library is 3,750 sq ft, containing 1,200ft run of shelving in the adults' and 400ft run in the children's section.

Most of the shelving is situated around the perimeter of the sections

allowing for the maximum flexibility of the enclosed floor space.

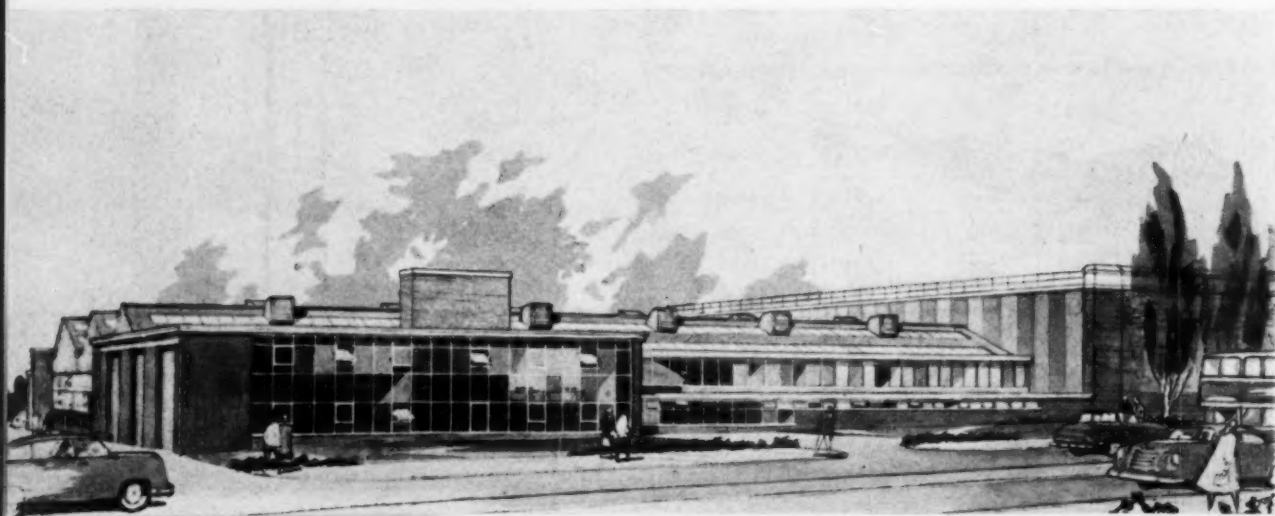
A laminated timber decking is used for the roof construction which is required to span a maximum of 35ft. The roof is supported by brick load-bearing walls except in the foyer and adult section which has a reinforced concrete frame.

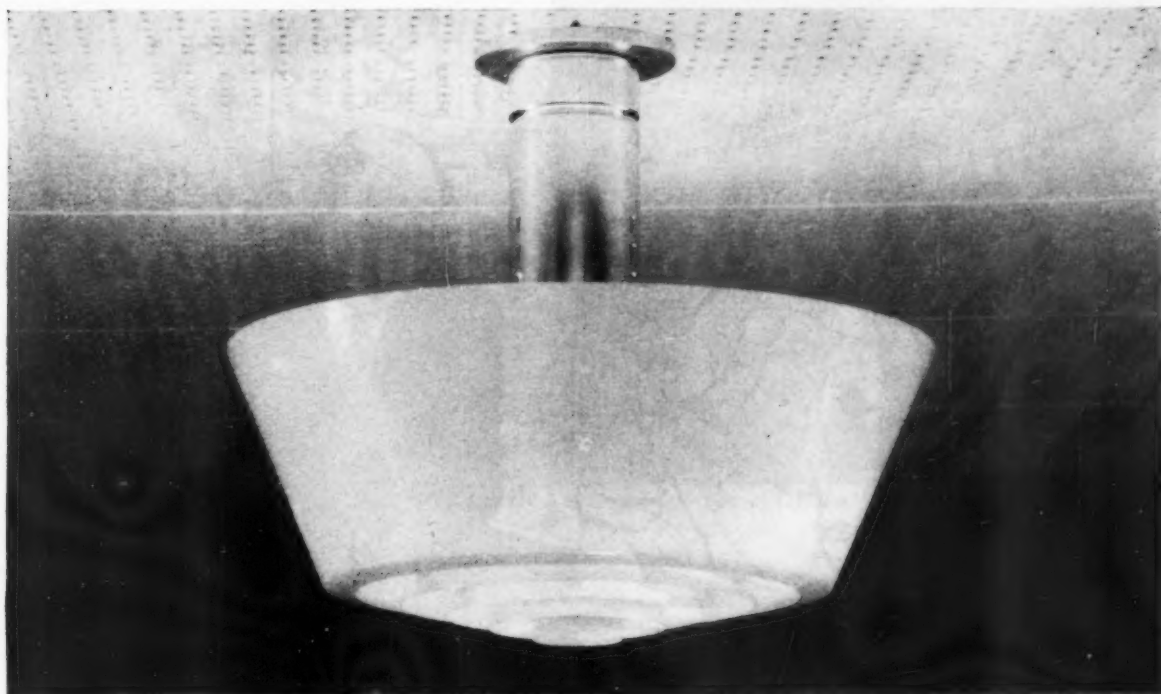
Estimated cost for the building, including furnishings, is £16,000. Contract to date has not been let.



The new extension seen from Tyburn Road. It will provide 45,000 feet super of floor area to accommodate equipment for omnibus repairs
(continued from page 493)

OMNIBUS REPAIR DEPOT, ERDINGTON





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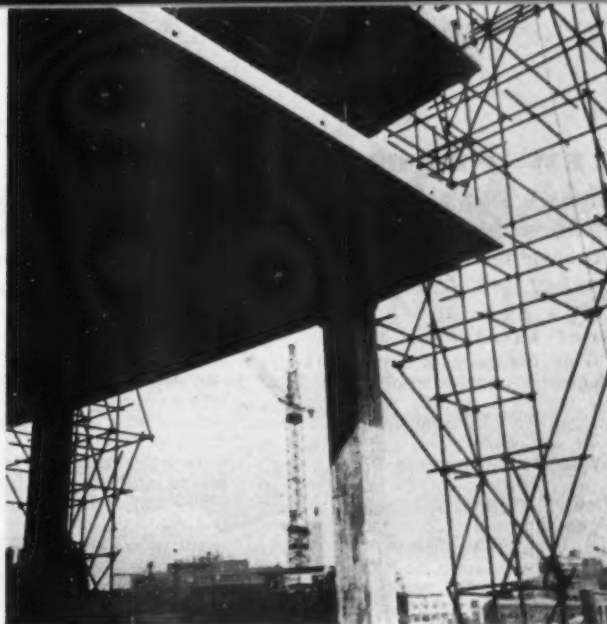
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THE FIRMS WHO BUILD

The achievements illustrated on preceding pages are the result of a vast effort and co-operation which is engaging countless people of various talents, the ramifications of which spread far beyond the city boundary. From the few men who envisaged the needs of a changing industrial centre, through the council and specialist departments, down to the men who build, all are necessary to the new growth. On this page we give credit to the firms who are helping to create the new structure of the City of Birmingham



A new bone structure in concrete

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM—HOUSING

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NECHELLS GREEN REDEVELOPMENT AREA

General Contractors: Five Oaks Estates Ltd.; John Laing & Son Ltd.; Morris & Jacobs Ltd.

LEE BANK REDEVELOPMENT AREA

General Contractors: Birmingham Corporation Direct Labour Building Dept.; Alfred Langley Ltd.

LADYWOOD REDEVELOPMENT AREA

General Contractors: Morris & Jacobs Ltd.; W. J. Simms Sons & Cooke Ltd.; George Wimpey & Co. Ltd.

NEWTON REDEVELOPMENT AREA

General Contractors: Alfred Langley Ltd.

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General Contractor: John Laing & Son Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Asphalt: Val-de-Travers Asphalt Ltd. Balcony Panels (Stove Enamelled) and Balustrading: Scaffolding (Great Britain) Ltd. Blocks (Lightweight Concrete): Thermalite Ytong Ltd. Bricks (Facing to Outbuildings): London Brick Co. Ltd. Brick Siteworks: Webster's Hemming Ltd. Concrete Cladding Panels: John Laing & Son Ltd. Doors: Gliksten Doors Ltd. Electrical Installation: Rex Brothers Ltd. Fencing: J. H. Shouksmith Ltd. Felt Roofing (Outbuildings): The Highways Construction Ltd. Flower Tubs (Concrete): Tarmac Ltd. Floor Finishes (Thermoplastic Tiles): Rowan and Boden Ltd. Floor Finishes (Coloured Grano): Pollock Bros. Gas Installation: West Midlands Gas Board. Glazing: Faulkner Green & Co. Ltd. Hot Water Combination Tanks: Range Boilers Ltd. Insulation (Structural): Scilound Insulation Ltd.; Fibreglass Ltd. Ironmongery: Baldwins (Birmingham) Ltd. Landscaping: Sheldon Garden Supplies Ltd. Lifts: Express Lift Co. Ltd. Lightning Conductors: W. J. Furze & Co. Ltd. Paint Generally: British Paints Ltd. (Chlorinated Rubber Paint) Inertol Co. Ltd. Painting: J. H. Magor. Paving (Concrete Flags): John Laing & Son Ltd. Paving (Tarpaving): Val-de-Travers Asphalt Ltd. Plastering: Pollock Bros. Plumbing: J. H. Shouksmith Ltd. Refuse Chutes: Broads Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Sanitary Equipment: Coates Ltd., Leeds. Telephone Installation: G.P.O. Television Aerials: E.M.I. Sales and Service Ltd. Wash Boilers (Gas): W. H. Dean Ltd. Wash Boilers (Electric): South Wales Switchgear Ltd. Water Services: City of Birmingham Water Dept. Windows (Metal): Critical Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

HAWKESLEY FARM MOAT ESTATE

General Contractor:

Wates Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Balustrading and Railings: A. E. Shaw Ltd. Bricks (Facing)—Flats: (a) National Coal Board Hednesford Red Sandfaced; (b) Leicestershire Multi-Buffs: Lunt Bros. Ltd. Bungalows: (c) L.B.C. Dimpled Lights: The London Brick Co. Ltd. Doors: F. Hills & Sons Ltd.; Gliksten Doors Ltd. Electrical Installations (including Panelc Floor Heating): Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd. Fencing: The Ideal Fencing Co. Floor Finishes—(a) Thermoplastic Tiles: The Marley Tile Co. Ltd.; (b) Quarry Tiles: Carter & Co. Ltd.; (c) Granolithic: J. Comer. Gas Installation: West Midlands Gas Board. Glazing: John Downes. Insulation (Structural): Fibreglass Ltd. Ironmongery: Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd. Lifts: Keighley Lifts Ltd. Lightning Conductors: W. J. Furze & Co. Mineral Felt Roofing and Asphalt: The Neuchatel Asphalt Co. Ltd. Paints: Goodlass Wall & Co. Ltd.; Scic-B Paint Sales Ltd. Painting: T. E. Cundy Ltd. Paving: Wates Ltd. Tar Paving: Tarslag Ltd. Plastering: J. Comer.

LEA MASON SECONDARY SCHOOL

General Contractor:

J. R. Deacon Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Aluminium Windows: Alumin Building Components Ltd. Asphalt: Ragusa Asphalt Paving Co. Ltd. Cork Tile Floors, Lino Tiles and Sheet Floors, Quarry Tiling, Wall Tiling and Wood Block and Strip Floor: Coventry Tile Co. Ltd. Electrical Installation: Lee Beesley & Co. (B'ham) Ltd. Glazing: Aygee Ltd. Granwood Floors: Granwood Floorings Co. Ltd. Heating: Engineering Service Installations Ltd. Ironmongery: Mountford Bros. Ltd. Partition Blocks, Thermalite Ltd. Plumbing: P. & D. (Oldbury) Ltd. Pre-cast Concrete Floors: Speediform Structures Ltd. Roof Lights: S. Warner & Son Ltd. Steel Windows: Hoskins & Sewell Ltd. Tar Paving: J. Hadfield & Sons Ltd.

NORMANHURST OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

General Contractor:

Mackee & Rodway (Suburbia) Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Bricks: William Nook Ltd. Canteen Equipment: E. Cooney & Co. Ltd. Doors: Leaderflush Ltd. Electrical Installation: Reynolds & Bradwell Ltd. Facing Bricks: Proctor & Lavender Ltd. Flooring: Rowan & Boden Ltd. Glazing: Maybury Bros. Ltd. Heating: Hopes Heating & Engineering Ltd. Ironmongery: Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd. Landscape Gardens: William Harthorne & Sons Ltd. Lift: Hammond & Champness Ltd. Prestressed Concrete Beams: Nottingham Gravels & Concrete Ltd. Painting: Harrison & Co. (Decorators) Ltd. Plastering: Jack Baggott. Plumbing: P. V. Wall & Sons Ltd. Reconstructed Stone: Stuart's Granolithic Co. Ltd. Roads: Val-de-Travers Asphalt Ltd. Roofing:

Marley Tile Co. Ltd. Scaffolding Window: Arthur Black & Son. Steel Windows: Henry Hope & Sons Ltd. Wrought Iron Handrails and Balustrades: Arthur Black & Son.

NORTHFIELD FIRE STATION

General Contractor:

Birmingham Corporation Direct Labour Building Department

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Appliance Room Entrance Doors: Overhead Doors (Great Britain) Ltd. Central Heating System and Domestic Hot Water Supply: H. Clark & Son. Electric Lighting Installation: Enns Lighting & Heating Co. Ltd. Facing Bricks: National Brick Co. Ironmongery: Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd. Laminated Bowstring Roof Trusses: C. Walsh Graham Ltd. Reconstructed Stone Panels: Nottingham Gravel & Concrete Ltd. Sanitary Goods: W. E. Farrer Ltd. Sliding Yard Entrance Gates: Esavian Ltd. Terrazzo Pavings: Roman Mosaic Ltd. Thermoplastic Floors: Semtex Ltd. Traffic Roofs: H. Newsam & Sons Ltd. Wrought Iron Balustrades, Cat Ladders, etc.: Bigwood Bros. (Birmingham) Ltd.

SWANSHURST GIRLS' SCHOOLS

General Contractor:

Smith Bros. (Construction) Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Electrical Installation: Frank Hancock Ltd.; City Electrical Ltd. Heating: Ashwell & Nesbit Ltd. Ironmongery: Walker & Wood Ltd.; Lockerbie & Wilkinson. Metal Windows: James Gibbons Ltd. Patent Glazing: Hills (W. B.) Ltd. Pre-cast Beams: Siegwart. Reconstructed Stone: John Ellis & Sons Ltd. Structural Steel: Edward Wood.

SELLY OAK BOYS' SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

General Contractor:

Parson & Morrin Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Electrical Installation: J. A. Brown & Partners (Contractors) Ltd. Heating: Enns Lighting & Heating Co. Ltd. Pre-cast Concrete: B. Whitehouse & Sons Ltd.

NECHELLS GREEN NURSERY UNIT

General Contractor:

W. & J. Webb Ltd.

Sub-contractors and suppliers:

Electrical Installation: Lee Beesley & Co. (Birmingham) Ltd. Heating: The Paragon Heating Co. Ltd.

NEW PRODUCTS

In this feature are reviewed new lines introduced to the building industry for the first time and additions or improvements to existing ones. Any advantages claimed for a product are from information supplied by the manufacturer

Roof Insulating Mat

This company is now marketing Slagbestos mineral wool in roll form for use as a flexible roof insulating mat. It can be supplied in rolls 16in wide for house insulation and also in any width up to 36in for sandwich roof construction or insulation of timber, asbestos or metal panels. Slagbestos is a high-grade, light-density, long-fibred mineral wool, lightly bonded with resin and the rolls are interleaved with removable paper. The product is claimed to be fire-proof, vermin-free and rot-proof. The mat is of 1in nom. thickness, available in densities of 3lb and 5lb per cu ft and the K value is 0.24.

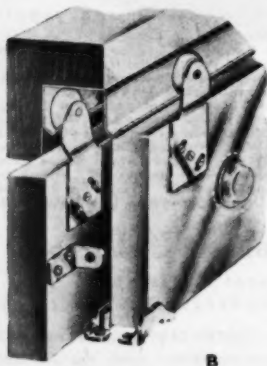
F. McNeill & Co. Ltd., 10 Lower Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1. Victoria 6022.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. A. Date 15/4/59.

★

Wardrobe Door Gear (B)

Double Top wardrobe gear is the latest addition to this company's range of sliding door gear. It is



B

designed for use with the sliding doors of built-in cupboards and wardrobes and is available for openings from 4ft to 8ft wide and for two or three doors. The gear consists of a soffit fixing, cadmium plated double top track which is V-shaped for smoothness of door operation and dust clearance. Cheese-head screws are provided so that countersinking is unnecessary. The hangers have quiet running nylon wheels and the steel aprons are slotted to simplify vertical door adjustment. True running of the doors is assisted by nylon bottom guides which can be applied after the door is hung. They do away with bottom door grooving and are completely adjustable for a range of door thicknesses. A safety door stop and a set of circular B.M.A. flush pulls

are provided. All fittings are face fixed to the inside of the doors and neither mortising nor grooving are necessary. The one set of track, hangers and guides can be used for doors from $\frac{1}{2}$ in to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in thick and up to 60lb per door in weight. The doors lift on and off the jump-proof track and, when doing so, it is not necessary to remove the reversible hangers. Four standard sets are available, costing from 34s per set: (1) No. 4W—up to 4ft opening (2 doors); (2) No. 5W—up to 5ft opening (2 doors); (3) No. 6W—up to 6ft opening (2 doors); (4) No. 8W—up to 8ft opening (3 doors). The number of doors per opening can be increased by selecting the set number to suit the opening width and adding one Single Door Pack No. 1W for every additional door (price: 12s per complete pack).

P. C. Henderson Ltd., Harold Hill, Romford, Essex. Ingrebourne 41111.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. B. Date 15/4/59.

★

New Gas Water Heater (C)

A new gas fired instantaneous water heater has been produced which incorporates a thermostatic control. The Apollo, as the new appliance is known, will, it is claimed, provide unlimited hot water at a constant flow and at a constant temperature. When installed as a sink water heater, supplied from either main or tank, it will give an instant flow of hot water at 0.5 gall/min, and this flow is always at a controlled temperature of 145 deg F. This outlet temperature is maintained irrespective of fluctuations in the water supply temperature and the gas rate is automatically adjusted by the thermostat. The Apollo may also be used to supply showers or in hairdressing establishments. The heater is, in addition, suitable for use as a booster to existing hot water storage systems. Features of design are that the thermostat replaces the orthodox flow valve, a combined gas and water control mechanically prevents gas from passing to the burner until water is flowing, and, in the event of complete water failure during operation, the thermostat will immediately cut off the gas before damage can occur to the heater. The Apollo conforms with B.S. 1250, is on the Gas Council's list of approved appliances, and is approved by the British Waterworks Association for either tank or mains connection. Gas rating: 37,500 B.Th.U./hr. Dimensions: 14½in high (plus 3½in spout projection) by 10½in



C

wide by 7½in deep. Weight: 17lb. Finish: white or cream stove enamelled casing, with black vitreous enamelled products deflector and red plastics water and pilot tap handles.

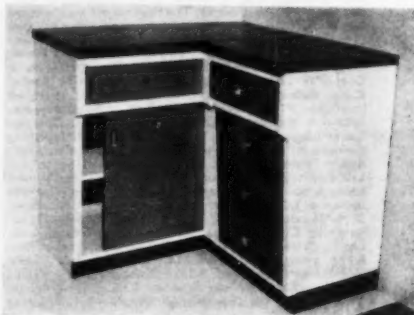
Main Water Heaters Ltd., 48 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. Sloane 6241.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. C. Date 15/4/59.

★

New Kitchen Furniture (D)

Top-hung sliding doors that are guaranteed not to stick are the principal feature of the Karoline Classic Mark II kitchen furniture. There are no bottom runners so as to permit a sloping front and thus give ample leg room at sink units and floor cabinets. The range consists of ten units which can be combined to satisfy individual needs. These are (a) 63in double drainer sink unit, (b) 42in single drainer sink unit, (c) 42in floor cabinet, (d) 21in floor drawer unit, (e) 42in corner unit, (f) 42in wall cabinet with sliding doors, (g) 21in open shelved wall cabinet, (h) radius end units for both floor and wall cabinets and (i) a broom cupboard. All units are constructed from selected seasoned timbers and employ proper t. and g. or mortised joints where appropriate throughout. Illustration shows the corner unit (left) and the 21in four-drawer floor unit. Colour schemes:

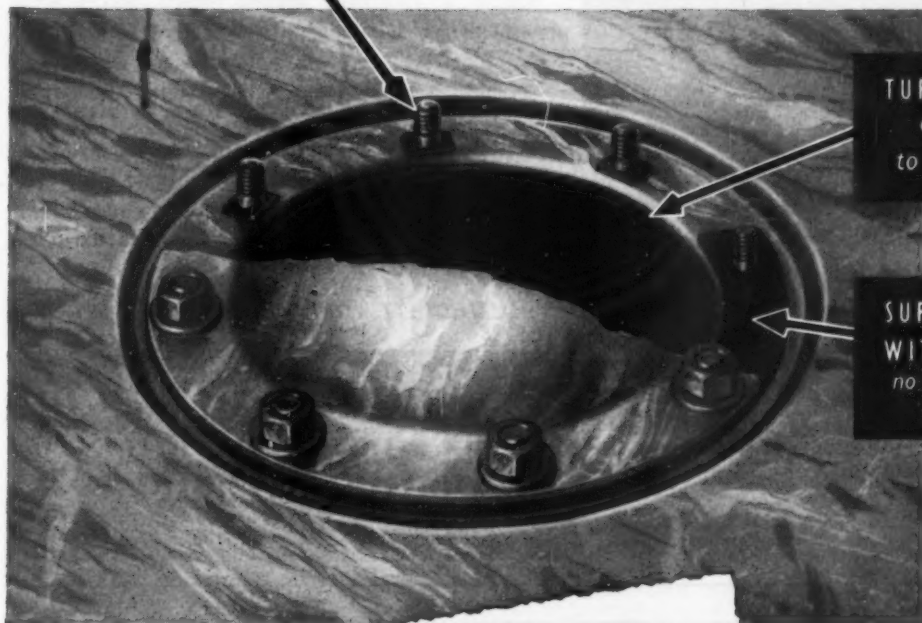


D

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away from the water
NO CORRODED BOLTS
NO SHEARING

Saves Time and Labour

ON TANK JOBS



TURNED-OVER EDGE
avoiding injury
to hands and arms

SUPPLIED COMPLETE
WITH RUBBER RING
no additional jointing
material needed

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HOT WATER TANKS
AND
HOT WATER CYLINDERS



RIVETED OR WELDED CONSTRUCTION
Hot-dip galvanized after manufacture by the
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LT/1

**BROUGHTON MOOR**

*Light Sea Green and
Olive Green Stone*

is eminently suitable for interior or exterior use where great durability and unique appearance are of paramount importance. Architects may specify its use for Facings, Foundation Stones, Paving and Flooring, Steps, Cills, Shop Fronts, Surrounds, Pilasters, Fireplaces, etc. Ask for these Technical Pamphlets:

1. Floorings
2. Facings
3. Copings
4. Cills
5. Riven Face Slabs

SPECIFICATION

The roof to be covered with Broughton Moor Light Sea Green best quality (coarse grained) Westmorland Slates, to be obtained from The Broughton Moor Green Slate Quarries Ltd., Coniston, The Lake District, Lancs, in random sizes about 18" to 9" long, proportionate and random widths, laid to a 3" lap in regularly diminishing courses, from eaves to ridge. Each slate to be securely fixed by two stout copper nails and wide slates are to be used on the hips and verges.

Alternatives: Seconds, Thirds, Special Peggies; Olive Green and Mixed Shades. Larger sizes also available.

Ridging: "Bromoor" purpose-made of crushed and moulded slate from the same veins is recommended.

Rain, Frost, Heat or Time do not affect their weather- resisting qualities

Quarried from one of the richest slate-beds in the world, Broughton Moor Westmorland Green Slates possess a rock-hard texture which makes them particularly suitable for use in chemical-laden atmospheres. Of picturesquely rugged surface and available in a wide range of harmonious colourings—Light Sea Green, Olive Green and Mixed Shades—they are the perfect medium for the roofing of all classes of architecture, whether domestic, municipal, commercial or ecclesiastical, enhancing the appearance of even the plainest edifice. Samples and prices gladly supplied.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY FROM STOCK

**The BROUGHTON MOOR
GREEN SLATE QUARRIES Ltd.**
Coniston, Lancs.

Telephone: Coniston 225'6 Telegrams: Cann, Coniston

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flooring problems!*



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*Here's what
The British Thomson-Houston
Company's Rugby Works
Architect
says about
Stonhard
Resurfacer —*

"We have used STONHARD RESURFACER recently on the conversion of one of our buildings; for many years we have used other materials made by you for patch repair work.

"We have found STONHARD RESURFACER excellent for resurfacing badly pitted floors which could not be further overloaded and where the work had to be carried out without seriously disturbing production.

"Its advantages are that it can be laid to a feather-edge; it sustains heavy impacts without cracking, improves under heavy traffic and tends to be dustproof."

NEW PRODUCTS (continued)

all white, all cream, or white or cream frame with doors and drawers in metalescent pastel blue, green, grey or pink. The makers will quote for additional ceiling cupboards, larders, odd sizes, dinette fittings, etc., and for non-standard colour schemes. In addition, their representatives will measure up and plan kitchens if required. Prices: (a) £50 17s 6d; (b) £38 12s 6d; (c) £26 19s 6d; (d) £21 2s 6d; (e) £25 12s 6d; (f) 15gn; (g) £8 17s 6d; (h) floor unit—£8 17s 6d and wall unit—£7 7s 6d.

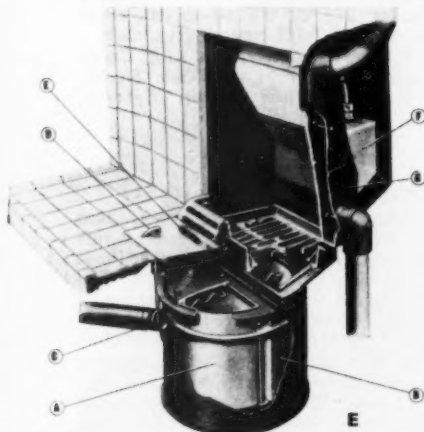
K. L. Cobb Ltd., Suffolk House, 5 Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C.4.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. D. Date 15/4/59.

★

Baxi Rotary Ash-Box (E)

The new Rotary Ash-Box for the Baxi fire has been designed so that the fire can burn continuously whilst the ash is removed independently. In operation, two ash-boxes rotate around a central axis so that while one is beneath the grate receiving ash from the fire, the other is beneath a removable cover plate in the hearth



and can be taken out for emptying. The makers recommend that the ideal method is to wait until both boxes are full and to empty them one after the other. The depth from top of hearth to bottom of the ash-box unit is 18½ in. The air inlet pipe is only 10½ in from the top of the hearth to the bottom of the inlet. Key to illustration: A and B, rotary ash-boxes; C, air inlet damper valve; D, damper control lever; E, hearth plate; F, high output boiler; G, modified universal convector. The new product is made only in 16 in size. Price: £18 5s including standard fire.

Richard Baxendale & Sons Ltd., Albert Street Foundry, Chorley, Lancs. Chorley 2808.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. E. Date 15/4/59.

New Aluminium Windows (F)

Horizontally sliding windows, made from aluminium alloy, are the latest addition to this manufacturer's range of such products. Glide windows, as they are known, are claimed to be completely weatherproof. Their weatherstripping in sash and jambs consists of high quality vinyl plastics extrusions and the double weatherstripping of the top and bottom rails, along which the windows slide on nylon runners, also eliminates vibration. These runners are mounted on stainless steel axles. Bedding-in is not necessary since the weatherproofing is an integral part of the window design. The windows are glazed with vinyl beading which contributes to the weather- and draught-proof features and can be removed and replaced in the event of glass breakage. The jamb sections of the windows interlock with the cill and head members so that all joints are both waterproof and twistproof. The outer frame window sections are of weldless construction throughout and are joined together by means of self-tapping screws to form mechanical corners. All exposed aluminium sections are mill-finished and the surfaces in contact with ferrous metals or masonry have a protective coating of asphalt-based paint. These windows can be completely erected and glazed from inside a building and the sash bypassing arrangement makes cleaning from inside both safe and easy. Where lengthy uninterrupted areas of fenestration are required, Glide windows can form a continuous wall of glass by joining adjacent mullions, with or without supporting posts.

John Thompson Beacon Windows Ltd., Wolverhampton. Bilston 41121.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. F. Date 15/4/59.

★

Slotted Angle Accessories (G)

Shelf divider clips have been added to this company's range of accessories for their slotted angle. These clips snap on and enable Erecto steel shelves to be divided into pigeon holes, whilst provision is made for the attachment of labels. These divider clips cost 6s per dozen.

Erecto Slotted Angle Co., 101 Waterloo Road, London, S.E.1.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. G. Date 15/4/59.

★

New Flat Enamel

Gaymatt Flat Finish has been superseded by a new product known as Gaymel Flat Enamel. The new product is based on a reinforced alkyd medium which has a gel structure. It is claimed to provide a truly flat finish and to possess toughness and durability. It is easy to apply, does not require any undercoat and



F

can be applied directly over itself. Gaymel Flat Enamel is available from stock in 36 colours selected from B.S. 2660, and additional colours from this range can also be supplied. All the colours are intermixable to give an extended colour range.

R. Gay & Co., 93-97 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1. Langham 0831.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. H. Date 15/4/59.

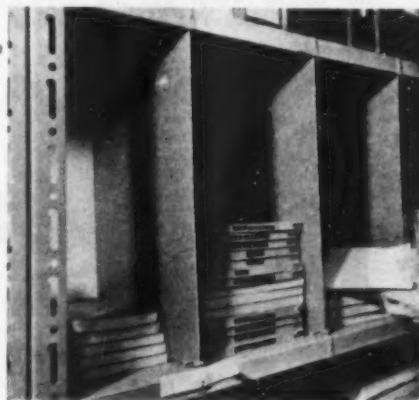
★

New Flexible Vinyl Wall Covering

A new flexible vinyl wall covering has been developed by this company for use wherever minimum maintenance and maximum hygiene are essential. Typical situations where it may be used are laboratories, hospitals, schools, office blocks, public buildings and in the home. Vertilex, as the new product is known, can be moulded to fit round corners, is durable, washable and stain resistant. The vinyl material is of thin gauge and the wall coverings are made in units measuring 6 in by 6 in, 12 in by 12 in, 12 in by 6 in and 12 in by 4 in. The product is claimed to be resistant to grease, fats, oil, and most chemicals and alkalis. Nine colours are available: charcoal, oyster black, mist, walnut, salmon pink, lemon, geranium, cordova blue and jade green. The units are gloss finished and can easily be cleaned with sponge or leather.

Semtex Ltd., 19-20 Berners Street, London, W.1. Langham 0401.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. I. Date 15/4/59.



G

NEW PRODUCTS (continued)

New Flat Oil Paint

These manufacturers have recently introduced Panolite Factory White flat oil paint. It can be applied to any clean, firm and dry surface by spray, brush or roller, but on old distemper, wallboard or unpainted old plaster, a priming coat of Pandura Primer/Sealer is recommended. Claims on behalf of Panolite are that it provides one-coat obliteration; has a smooth sheen finish which is repeatedly washable; is easy to apply; is free from lead and can therefore be used in food processing and handling premises; is alkali resistant; requires little stirring and can be stored indefinitely. Coverage is 70-80 sq yd per gallon on non-porous surfaces and 60-70 sq yd on rougher or porous surfaces. Panolite is made in white and cream but can be tinted to any pastel shade with oil stainers.

P. & A. New Ltd., Ditchford Mill, Wellingborough, Northants.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. J. Date 15/4/59.

★

Concrete Cutting Machine (K)

The Bramcut concrete cutting machine has been produced for the cutting of contraction and expansion joints in concrete roads and runways, after the concrete has set. The machine will, it is claimed, make accurate straight cuts which are wider and deeper than has hitherto been possible in even the hardest aggregates. The machine can be operated by one man and is mounted on a tubular frame constructed in 6ft sections which are accurately dowelled together and designed for rapid assembly and dismantling. The centre section has four hydraulically lowered wheels for local transportation. By the addition of sections, the frame can be made any length so that the saw cut can be made with mechanical precision. The frame overhangs the full width of the road so that the cut can be made continuously from one side of the road to the other, whilst the cutting wheel will not deviate from the line. The massive cutting



K

head is travelled along the tubular frame on ball-bearing wheels by pulling on a roller chain attached to each end of the frame. A worm reduction gear simplifies winding of the handle. A large hand wheel for elevating and lowering the cutting wheel gives accurate depth of cut. The long-life Bramcut wheels are of laminated plastics and revolve at a speed of 20,000 surface ft per minute. Wheel wear is countered through water being introduced into the hollow spindle, and led by ports through flange plates down the sides of the wheel and, with very high velocity, into the cut. Power may be supplied by either a 26 h.p. Volkswagen industrial petrol engine, or a 32 h.p. Perkins diesel.

Bramcut Ltd., 155 Charles Street, Leicester, Leicestershire LE1 3JN.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. K. Date 15/4/59.

★

Pressure Containers (L)

Two new centre top outlet pressure containers, specially designed for use with liquid polishing compounds and similar heavy materials, have been added to this manufacturer's range. These containers, Nos. L.1005H and L.1010H, with respective capacities of 5 and 10 gallons, replace the conventional bottom outlet types. They are built to B.S. 1101:1943 for a maximum working pressure of 50lb/sq in and are hydraulically tested to 100lb/sq in. Shells are constructed from m.s. boiler quality plate with dished and flanged ends and are electrically welded throughout. The covers are fitted with quick action filler caps and are made from high-tensile aluminium alloy castings. Ram plates are fitted as standard but agitator gear has been omitted. Both units incorporate 1in O.D. straight through feedpipes which have no bends or obstructions to impair the flow of material and discharge is from the centre of the container head. An outlet of 1½in dia. is available as an alternative. Illustration shows the lid removed to reveal the outlet pipe and ram plate.

Alfred Bullows & Sons Ltd., Long Street Walsall, Staffs. Walsall 5401.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. L. Date 15/4/59.

★

New Concrete Mixer

A new and smaller version of the Creteangle Multiflow mixer has recently been introduced. The mixer may be powered by either petrol or electricity and will operate efficiently and at high speed with dry, semi-dry or wet materials. Features of the Creteangle include fixed blades fitted with a special rudder device which automatically adjusts them to the correct angle, without the use of springs, and also allows them to swing clear of large stones in the mix; and driving power is direct through an enclosed reduction gear unit so as to reduce maintenance to a minimum.



L

A fabricated steel chassis and stand supports the pivoted head which carries the blades. These blades can easily be adjusted for depth when wear takes place. The drum turntable is mounted on the reduction gear unit and has four dogs which engage on the underside of the drum. Mixing capacity is from 2 to 2½ cu ft and the drum measures 25in dia by 13in deep internally. 1½ h.p. three-phase electric motors with push button starters are fitted as standard, whilst the petrol engines are of the air-cooled, four-stroke type with centrifugal clutch.

Edward Benton & Co. Ltd., Creteangle Works, Ferring-by-Sea, Sussex.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. M. Date 15/4/59.

★

Acid Resisting Cements

The complete new range of acid resisting cements, announced by this company at last year's Chemical Plant Exhibition, is now available. The new silica cements are based on a formulation which is completely free from Halogen compounds and they can therefore be used for installing brick linings into stainless steel and lead-lined vessels. At the same time they have greater compressive strength and lower porosity than previous cements, together with a greatly improved adhesion to ceramic ware, even after immersion into acids. Of the new Asplit synthetic resin cements, grade CN is an expanding type of mortar which, when used in tile linings in closed vessels, will effect a slightly prestressed lining. Because of this property, it should under no circumstances be used for the jointing of stoneware pipelines. Grade O, which is available in white and black, has an adhesion to chemical stone-ware hitherto only found in epoxy type cements, but has the added advantage that it is rapid hardening and can often be put into use four to eight hours after being laid.

Prodorite Ltd., Junction Works, Potters Lane, Wednesbury, Staffs.

Readers' Information Service, Ref. N. Date 15/4/59.



Asphalt roofing
to
mansard slopes

PERMANITE ASPHALT ROOFING

Asphalt roofing
with
expansion joint

PERMANITE are specialists in the laying of asphalt on all types of roofs.

Consult **PERMANITE** at the Planning Stage

for **ASPHALT TANKING**
ASPHALT FLOORING
ASPHALT or
BUILT-UP FELT ROOFING

PERMANITE
L I M I T E D

PERMANITE also manufacture bituminous dampcourses. Specify PERMANITE

LONDON
ADVance 4477

BIRMINGHAM
BIRchfields 5041

MANCHESTER
BLAckfriars 9469

Take **ASTOS** the dampcourse

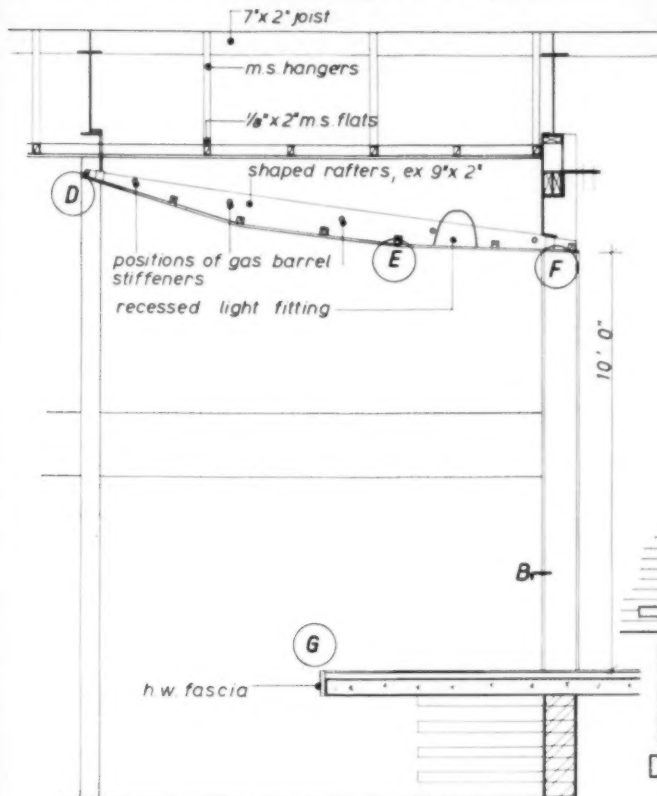
—for permanence, for a toughness that withstands vibration and normal foundation settlement, for easy identification on site. ASTOS, Standard or lead-lined, the original asbestos/bitumen dampcourse, complies with the British Standard requirements (B.S. No. 743, 1951). 24 ft. rolls, in wall widths up to 36 in. Standard (Type 5C) 7-lb. per sq. yd. Lead-lined (Type 5F) 9½-lb. per sq. yd.



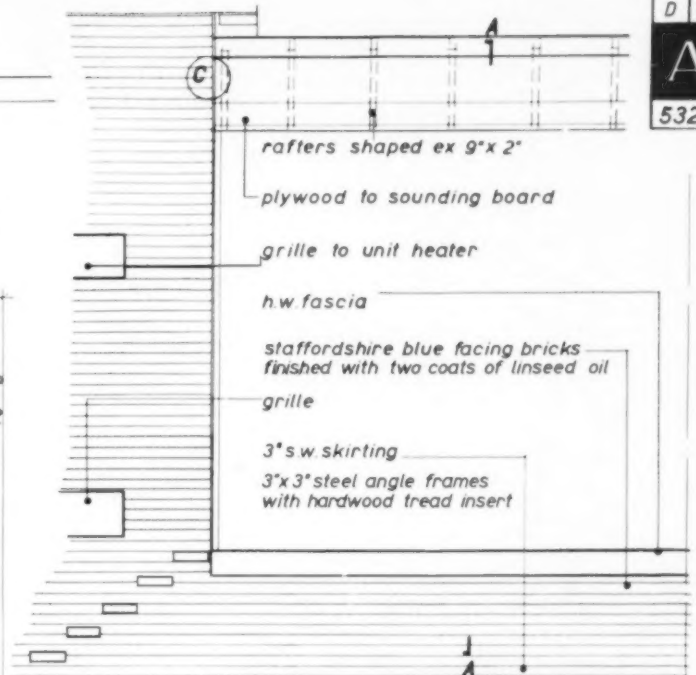
Take Zylex Slaters' Felt as a secondary roof under tiles or slates, to prevent damage due to roof defects, to reduce heat loss. Reinforced Zylex for open rafters, Standard for boarded roofs, and Aluminium Foil Surfaced for even greater reduction of heat loss. Take ASTOS and ZYLEX for perfect protection and insulation. Specify them together.



For technical literature write to:
THE RUBEROID COMPANY LIMITED 94 COMMONWEALTH HOUSE • 1-19 NEW OXFORD STREET • LONDON WC1

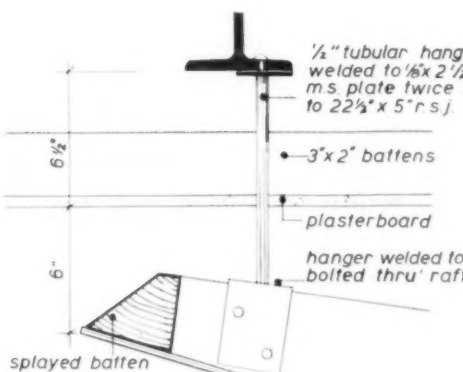


SECTION A-A 1/4"-1'0"



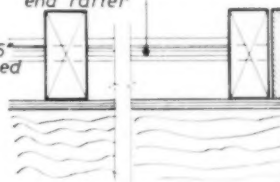
PART ELEVATION 1/4"-1'0"

PLAN AT (B) 1/8 F.S.

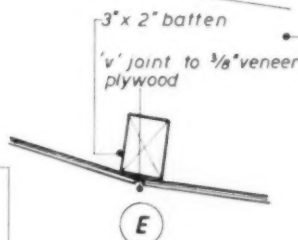
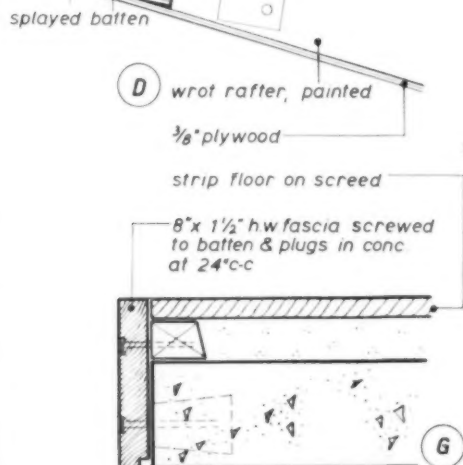


gas barrels at 2'6" c-c thru' rafters to cantilever end rafter

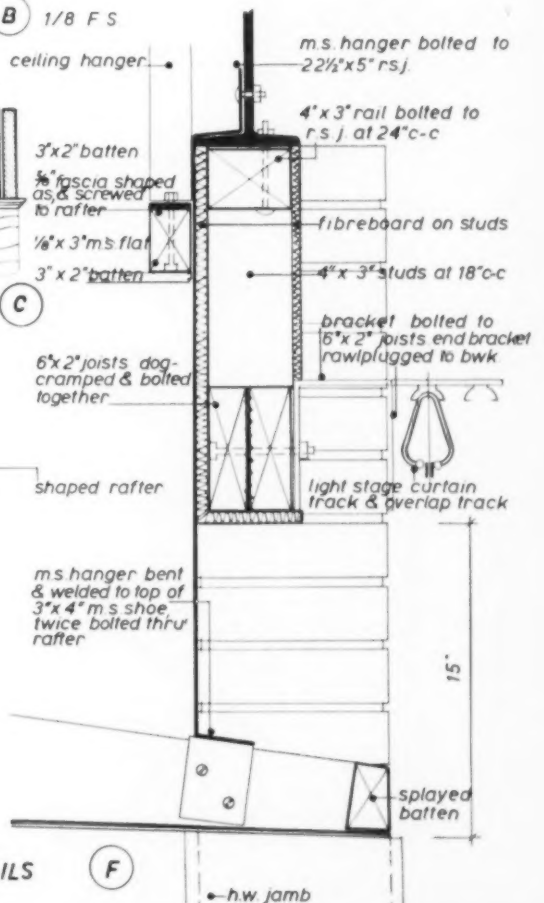
ceiling hanger



HANDED SECTION AT (C)



SECTIONAL DETAILS 1/8 F.S.





The sounding board in the assembly hall of this boys' secondary school in Chatham is faced with a polished beech plywood on timber rafters cut to shape. The steelwork generally is painted gloss white, and the high level ceiling is scarlet. The low level ceiling is plastered and distempered white and was perforated to correct the acoustics. The heating grilles are dark grey and the steps to the stage are polished beech set into steel angles painted gloss white. The architects are Richard Sheppard, Robson and Partners

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in a bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

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BUILDING

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH R.C. (a) 12 houses and four bungalows, Measham Road, Appleby Magna. (b) Mr. C. S. Curtis, Surveyor, Council Offices, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics. (c) 2gn. (e) May 4.

BARNESLEY B.C. (a) Contract S.H.2. Erection of 86 houses at St. Helen's estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Barnsley. (c) 2gn. (e) May 25.

BARNESLEY B.C. (a) Erection and completion of a crematorium and ancillary buildings at Ardsley. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Barnsley. (c) 2gn. (e) May 13.

BATTLE R.C. (a) Fixed price for alterations and additions to treasurer's offices. (b) Council's Surveyor, The Watch Oak, Battle, Sussex. (c) 2gn. (e) May 4.

BERKSHIRE C.C. (a) Erection of a new ambulance station at West St. Helen's Street, Abingdon. (b) County Architect, Wilton House, Parkside, Reading. (c) 2gn. (e) April 22.

BLETCHLEY U.C. (a) Extension to factory No. 4 on the Council's No. 1 industrial estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Bletchley. (c) £5. (e) April 24.

BUSHEY U.C. (a) 16 flats and 24 houses, Little Bushey estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Rudolph Road, Bushey, Herts. (c) 3gn (cheques payable to Council). (e) May 5.

BUSHEY U.C. (a) Ten flats at Cotswold Avenue, Little Bushey estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Rudolph Road, Bushey, Herts. (c) 3gn (cheques payable to Council). (e) April 22.

CARMARTHEN R.C. (a) Fixed price tenders for seven houses, Brynlluan, Gorlar; eight bungalows and site works, Lon Hafren, St. Clears; four bungalows, Drefach. (b) Council Surveyor, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen. (c) 2gn. (e) April 25.

CASTLEFORD B.C. (a) Three shops, three flats over, drainage, etc., at Half Acres. (b) Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Castleford. (c) 2gn. (e) April 21.

CHESTER C.C. (a) 42 houses, four flats, Melrose Avenue, Great Boughton. (b) Council's Architect, T. C. R. Eaton, 16 White Friars, Chester. (c) 3gn. (e) April 28.

CHRISTCHURCH B.C. (a) Four houses on a fixed price basis. (b) Messrs. Geen & Cross, Metropole Chambers, The Lansdowne, Bournemouth. (c) 2gn (payable to Council). (e) April 28.

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading (c) deposit (d) last date of application (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked * are given in the advertisement section.

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CROMPTON U.C. (a) Erection of 36 aged persons' bungalows at Hunger Hill housing estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Shaw, near Oldham. (c) £2. (e) May 1.

CUCKFIELD R.C. Contract No. 138. (a) 22 dwellings at Grange Road, Crawley Down. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex. (c) 2gn. (e) April 27.

DEVON STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE. (a) Pair of police houses at Sidmouth. (b) County Architect, 97 Heavitree Road, Exeter. (c) 2gn, by cheque, payable to the C.C.

EAST ELLOE R.C. (a) Six bungalows, Red Cow site (Contract No. 1), Sutton St. Edmund. (b) Council's Architect, Mattimore House, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs. (c) 2gn.

EASTLEIGH B.C. (a) 12 pairs of one-bedroom, old people's bungalows, together with paths, fences and various ancillary works at Velmore housing estate, Stage V. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Eastleigh. (c) 2gn. (e) May 25.

EIRE—BIRR. (a) Building of a new factory at Birr, Co. Offaly, for Messrs. A. O. Reynolds & Co., Lebanon, Indiana. (b) H. D. W. Boyd, Esq., 28-30 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin. (c) £50. (e) April 22.

EIRE—CARRICK-ON-SUIR U.C. (a) Erection of 7 houses, together with development and site works, John Street/Mill Street, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. (b) Documents from Liam O'Cathasaigh, Town Clerk, for the sum of £3 (recoupable). (c) £10. (e) April 22.

EIRE—DUBLIN. (a) Erection of a nine-storey block of flats, Dominick Street Housing Area, Section No. I.B., containing 35 flat dwellings. (b) City Treasurer, Exchange Buildings, Lord Edward Street, Dublin. (c) 15gn. (e) April 28.

FAVERSHAM B.C. (a) Contract 5K, 36 houses, Lower Road estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Municipal Offices, Faversham, Kent. (c) 2gn. (e) May 4.

GOSPORT B.C. (a) Two-storey building of 13 old people's flatlets, at Chapel Row. (b) Borough Engineer, The Hall, Haslar Road, Gosport. (c) 2gn.

GT. HARWOOD U.C. (a) Eight single-person's bungalows at Park Road. (b) Messrs. Grimshaw & Townsend, Willow Street, Accrington. (c) 2gn. (e) April 30.

HEREFORDSHIRE C.C. (a) Two-form entry, plus one classroom, secondary school in single and three-storey steel frame construction at Kingston. (b) The County Architect, Bath Street, Hereford. (c) 5gn, from contractors selected to tender. (d) April 15, enclosing list of projects carried out, number of operators employed and any details of ability to finance the project.

HERTFORD B.C. (a) Alterations to rear of the Corn Exchange and erection of a two-storey building. (b) E. C. Harris & Partners, 7-12 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. (c) 2gn. (e) April 22.

ISLE OF WIGHT STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE. (a) Fixed price tenders for the erection of a pair of police houses at Love Lane, Cowes, Isle of Wight. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight. (c) 2gn (payable to Council). (d) April 13. (e) May 6.

LEATHERHEAD U.C. (a) Seven stores at rear of shops, Lower Shott, Great Bookham. (c) 2gn. (e) April 23.

LEICESTERSHIRE C.C. (a) Firm price tenders for erection of Eyres Monsell Infants' School. (b) County Architect, 123 London Road, Leicester. (d) April 17.

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) Applications invited for inclusion in the board's approved list of contractors for main building and engineering contracts. (b) Secretary to the Board, Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8, for form of application and details. (d) April 18.

NORTHERN IRELAND—BELFAST C.C. (a) College of Technology extensions at Millfield. (b) Education Architect's Department, 40 Academy Street, Belfast. (c) 5gn, cheques payable to the Belfast Corporation. (e) May 20.

NORTHERN IRELAND—LONDON-DERRY. (e) Erection of a school for 800 pupils at Creggan, for Most Rev. N. Farren, Lord Bishop of Londonderry—main contract, piling and structural steelwork. (b) F. N. Corr and W. H. D. McCormick, 7 Ferryquay Street, Londonderry. (c) £26 5s. (e) May 5.

PETERSFIELD R.C. (a) One pair of three-bedroom houses at Langrish and two blocks of four one-bedroom flats and one pair of two-bedroom bungalows at Hill View estate, East Meon. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, The Old College, Petersfield, Hants. (c) 2gn. (e) April 25.

PLYMOUTH C.C. (a) 28 one-bedroom flats. (b) City Architect, Seymour Road, Plymouth. (c) 3gn, payable to Plymouth Corporation.

RHYMNEY U.C. (a) Fixed price tenders for the erection of 86 dwellings at Ty Coch (No. 3) housing site. (b) Council's Architect, W. T. Bebb, Esq., Manor House, Bank Square, Chepstow. (c) 3gn. (e) April 30.

RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE R.C. (a) Six houses at Thorneyhill, Bransgore, nr. Christchurch. (b) The Homeville Co. Ltd., 12 Craufurd Rise, Maidenhead, Berkshire. (c) 2gn. (e) April 30.

ROSS-ON-WYE U.C. (a) Eight aged persons' bungalows. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Broad Street, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire. (e) April 21.

RUSHDEN U.C. (a) Eight houses on Rose Avenue site. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Buildings, Rushden. (e) April 20.

SCOTLAND—BERWICKSHIRE C.C. (a) Several trades for erection of new junior secondary school at Earliston. (b) County Clerk, County Buildings, Duns. (d) April 27, to be considered for inclusion in panel of competing contractors.

SCOTLAND—GLASGOW CORPORATION. (a) Erection of a crematorium. (b) City Architect Planning Officer, 20 Trongate, Glasgow, C.1, forthwith. A selection from the list of applicants may be made.

SCOTLAND—GLASGOW C.C. (a) Several works for 12 houses at Yetholm Street. (b) Architectural and Planning Department, 20 Trongate, Glasgow, C.1. (e) April 30.

SCOTLAND—INVERURIE B.C. (a) Several trades for one block of six three-apartment houses. (b) Burgh Surveyor, Town Hall, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. (e) April 24.

STONE R.C. (a) Four bungalows at Cotes Heath and 11 garages at Barlaston. (b) Holland, Jones & Oldacre, Lloyds Bank Chambers, Newcastle, Staffs. (c) £2 each site, by cheque.

TYLDESLEY U.C. (a) External cement rendering of front elevation of 42 pre-war council houses. (b) Housing Superintendent, Tyldesley. (c) 2gn. (e) April 25.

ULSTER—DERRY. (a) Erection and completion of New Voluntary Intermediate School for 800 boys at Creggan, Derry, for Most Rev. N. Farren, D.D.D.C.L., Lord Bishop of Derry. Separate tenders. (1) Main contract. (2) Piling. (3) Structural steelwork. (b) F. M. Corr & W. H. D. McCormick, 7 Ferryquay Street, Derry. (c) 25gn. (e) May 5.

WATFORD R.C. (a) 42 flats in two blocks of seven storeys, 48 flats in four blocks of three storeys, 124 houses, one block of nine bungalows for old people, garages, drainage, paths, fencing and site works, at Oxhey Place, South Oxhey. (b) Clerk of the Council, Council Offices, Wynyard House, 99 Langley Road, Watford, Herts. (c) 1gn. (d) April 20.

WEST RIDING STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE. (a) Formation of third court on first floor Divisional Police Headquarters and Court House, Moorgate, Rotherham. (b) Divisional Architect, Planet Road, Adwick-le-Street, near Doncaster. (d) April 24. (e) May 8.

WEST SUSSEX C.C. (a) Fixed price tender for erection of a single bay fire station in brick construction at Steyning (Job No. 5704). (b) County Architect, County Hall, Chichester. (d) April 15.

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WIDNES B.C. (a) Design and construction of multi-storey flats and maisonettes, Douglas Street and Lime Street sites. (b) Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings, Widnes. (d) April 18, in writing.

WOKING U.C. (a) 38 dwellings at Barnsbury Farm estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Woking, Surrey. (c) 2gn. (d) April 18. (e) May 25.

YORK C.C. (a) Maternity and child welfare centre, Fifth Avenue. (b) City Architect, 8 St. Leonard's Place, York. (c) £2, payable to York Corporation. (e) April 27.

PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

LUTON B.C. (1) Special school. (2) Richmond Hill. (3) Token Construction Co. Ltd., 68 Mount Street, London, W.1. (4) £52,962. (1) Junior school. (2) Lewsey. (3) Token Construction Co. Ltd., 68 Mount Street, London, W.1. (4) £83,668. (1) Infants' school. (2) Macauley Road. (3) Token Construction Co. Ltd. (4) £65,221.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE C.C. (1) Additions. (2) Heaton Grammar School. (3) R. Bowey & Son Ltd., William Street South, Gosforth. (4) £70,972.

LEICESTER C.C. (1) 86 dwellings. (2) Eyres Monsell estate. (3) Rostance (Builders) Ltd., of Nottingham. (4) £102,086.

LUTON B.C. (1) Crematorium. (3) John Willmott & Sons (Hitchin) Ltd., 80 Walsworth Road, Hitchin.

LUTON B.C. (1) Erection of secondary school. (2) Lewsey estate. (3) Token Construction Co. Ltd., 68 Mount Street, London, W.1. (4) £117,392.

GUILDFORD B.C. (1) 30 houses. (2) Mansion site, Bellfields. (3) Walker (Tooting) Ltd., Hackbridge, Wallington, Surrey.

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HEBBURN-ON-TYNE. (1) Foundations and steelwork for eight-storey office block for A. Reyrolle & Co. Ltd. (3) Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd., 81 Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

JARROW B.C. (1) 74 dwellings. (2) Housing scheme No. 60. (3) Direct labour. (1) 20 houses. (2) Shakespeare Street. (3) Direct Labour.

NORTHUMBERLAND C.C. (1) Additions to secondary school. (2) Blyth Bebside. (3) John Jackson & Sons, Corporation Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CHATHAM B.C. (1) Flats. (2) Ordnance Street, etc. (3) C. J. Howard & Son Ltd., Chatham, Kent. (4) £38,241.

EXMOUTH U.C. (1) 24 old people's bungalows. (2) Withycombe. (3) F. W. Davey Ltd., Exmouth. (4) £27,500.

SHEFFIELD C.C. (1) Secondary school. (2) Gleadless Valley. (3) J. F. Finnegan & Co. Ltd., 847 Eccleshall Road, Sheffield, 10. (4) £194,488.

WHISTON R.C. (1) 40 dwellings. (2) Holt Lane. (3) H. Horridge & Co. Ltd., Newton-le-Willows, Lancs.

MIDDLESBROUGH B.C. (1) 65 flats. (2) St. Hilda's Ward. (3) James Miller & Partners Ltd., Newmillerdam, Wakefield. (4) £157,000.

STOCKPORT B.C. (1) 99 houses. (2) Canal Bridge Farm Estate. (3) George Wimpey & Co. Ltd., Hammersmith Grove, London, W.6. (4) £144,071.

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION. (1) 67 houses, 14 flats. (2) Clifton estate. (3) Rostance (Builders) Ltd., King's Meadow Road, Nottingham. (4) £98,700.

SMETHWICK B.C. (1) 119 dwellings and 98 dwellings. (2) Uplands and Stanhope Road, respectively. (3) W. J. Whittall & Sons Ltd., Birmingham. (4) £447,021.

BARNESLEY B.C. (1) 100 houses. (2) St. Helen's estate. (3) Harlow & Milner Ltd., Warrengate, Wakefield. (4) £119,810.

LAMBETH B.C. (1) Two 11-storey blocks and one four-storey block containing 110 flats. (2) Studley Road, Clapham. (3) Wates Ltd., 1258 London Road, London, S.W.16. (4) £306,294.

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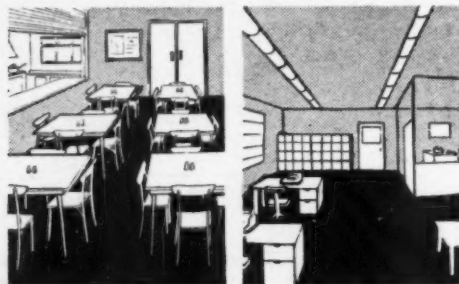
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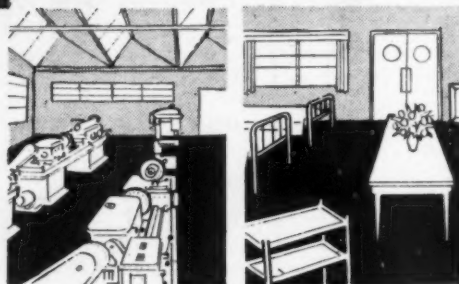
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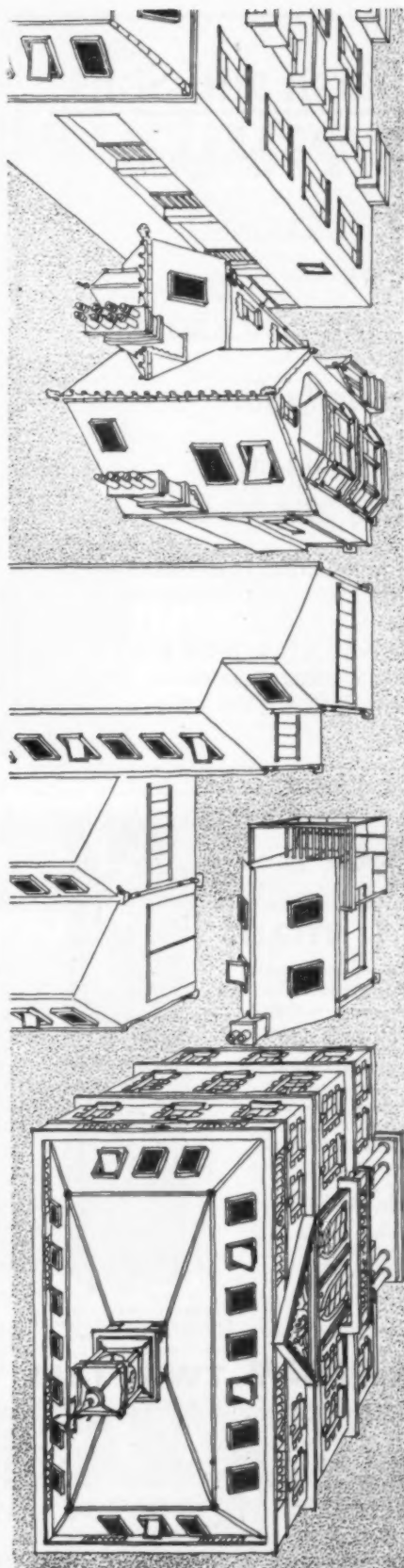
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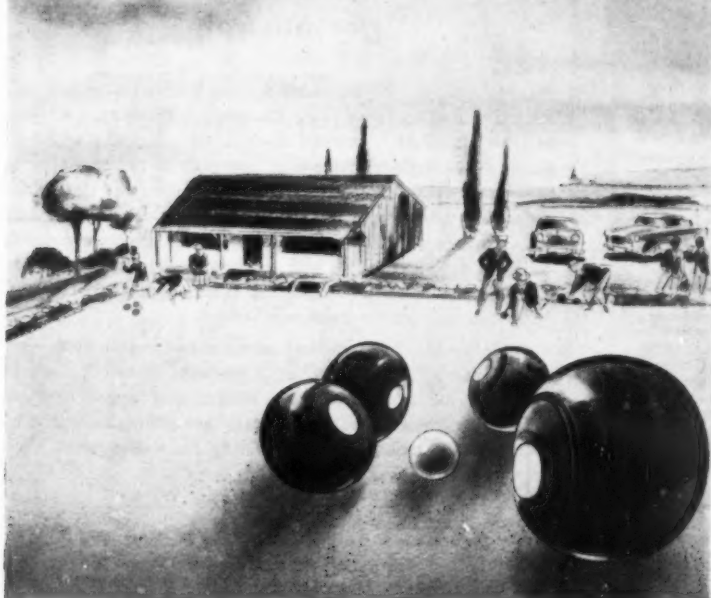
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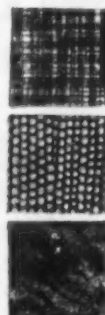


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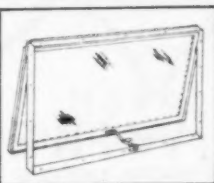
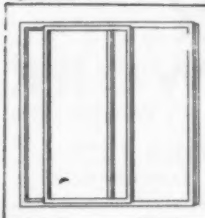
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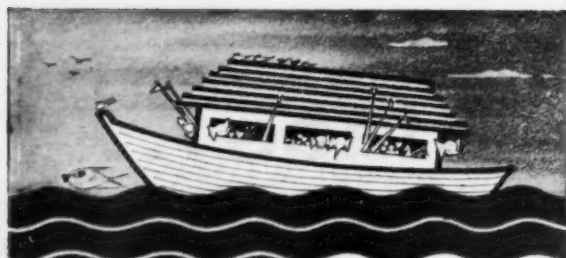
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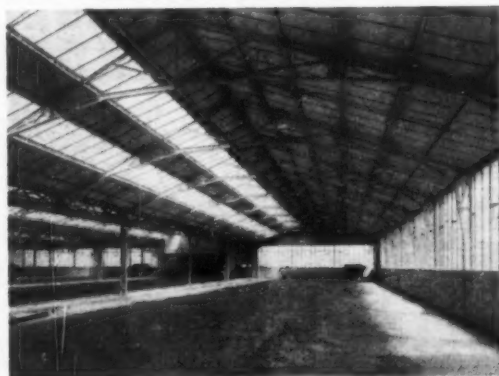


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APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment. Candidates should preferably hold the Intermediate Certificate of the R.I.B.A., and must be experienced. Starting salary £525/£605 per annum, according to age and experience. Applications giving details of age, qualifications and experience together with the names of two referees, should be addressed to the Personnel Officer, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, 3. [5036]

Hampshire County Council ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

Special Scale (£750/£1,030)

REQUIRED for pensionable post in County Architect's Department. Candidates must have passed Parts I and II of the R.I.B.A. Final Examination, or equivalent, and have had at least five years' experience (including the period spent in theoretical training). The commencing salary will be determined by experience and ability. Assistance given with removal and other expenses in approved cases.

Application forms (send s.a.e.), returnable by April 30, from the Clerk of the County Council, The Castle, Winchester. [5060]

Cwmbran Development Corporation APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL STAFF

APPLICATIONS are invited for the under-mentioned supernumerary posts, the point of entry in each grade being in accordance with qualifications and experience.

(a) Architectural Assistant. APT IV/V (£753/£1,029).
(b) Assistant Architect. APT V/VI (£844/£1,146).

Candidates for post (a) should either be graduates about to complete their studies at a recognized school of architecture or be persons possessing minimum qualification of Intermediate Examination of R.I.B.A. with office experience.

Candidates for post (b) should be Associates of the R.I.B.A. with suitable office experience and should have had good experience in house design, construction and layout.

Housing accommodation will be made available to successful married candidates.

Applications stating age, experience, details of present and former employment (together with applicable salaries) and the names and addresses of two referees must reach the undersigned by first post on Monday, May 4, 1959.

J. C. F. WEST, A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.,
Chief Architect.

Victoria Street,
Cwmbran,
Mon. [5031]

London County Council ARCHITECTS Grade III

REQUIRED for housing, schools and general divisions. Full and varied programme of new work including schools, multi-storey flats and town development. Up to £1,090 according to qualifications and experience. Particulars and application form from Hubert Bennett, F.R.I.B.A., Architect to Council, AR/EK/25/29, County Hall, S.E.1. (441) [0204]

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APPOINTMENTS (cont)

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University of Liverpool

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Applications, stating age, academic qualifications and experience, together with the names of three referees, accompanied if possible by drawings or photographs of work, should be received not later than May 15, 1959, by the Registrar, from whom further particulars may be obtained. [5044]

County Borough of Derby

Borough Architect's Department

(a) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS. Special Grade (£750/£1,030 per annum). Qualifications: A.R.I.B.A.
(b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. APT Grade I (£575/£725 per annum). Qualifications: Intermediate R.I.B.A.

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Application forms obtainable from and to be returned to the Borough Architect, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, not later than Monday, May 4, 1959.

G. H. EMLYN JONES, Town Clerk. [5056]

April 9, 1959.

County Borough of East Ham

Borough Engineer's Department

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following temporary appointments:

Senior Assistant Architect, Grade IV (£1,025/£1,175).

Architectural Assistant, Grade II (£725/£845).

London Weighting is paid in addition, and salaries in excess of the minima may be paid according to qualifications and experience. The appointments are for work on a new technical college and are expected to be for a period of not less than three years.

Further details and application forms, returnable by May 1, 1959, from the Town Clerk, Town Hall, East Ham, E.6. [5058]

London County Council Architect's Department

VACANCIES for Architectural Assistants, starting salary up to £860. Full and interesting programme of houses, flats, schools and general buildings.

Application form and particulars from The Architect to the Council, County Hall, S.E.1, quoting AR/EK/14/59. (256) [0166]

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APPOINTMENTS (cont)

Hampshire County Council JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT APT I (£575/£725)

REQUIRED in the County Architect's Department. Candidates should be studying for the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A., and have had several years' experience in an architect's office. The post is pensionable and subject to a satisfactory medical report. Assistance given with removal and other expenses in approved cases. Five-day week.

Application forms (send s.a.e.), returnable by May 1, from the Clerk of the County Council, The Castle, Winchester. [5061]

County Borough of Newport

APPLICATIONS invited for following established posts:

(i) Three Assistant Architects, Grade APT IV (£1,025/£1,175).

(ii) Two Assistant Architects, Special Grade (£750/£1,030).

(iii) One Architectural Assistant, Grade APT I (£575/£725).

(iv) Two Learner/Draughtsmen, Gen./H.Gen. (£200/£560).

(v) One Assistant Quantity Surveyor, Grade APT IV (£1,025/£1,175).

(vi) One Assistant Quantity Surveyor, Special Grade (£750/£1,030).

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Application forms from Borough Architect, Civic Centre, Newport, Mon., returnable by Monday, May 4, 1959. [5063]

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